

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY408				
Name of Service:	Saint Brendan's Playgroup				
Address of Service:	St. Brendan's BNS, Mc Auley Road, Artane, Dublin 5.				
Eircode:	D05 P820				
Name of Registered Provider:	Rosanna Doyle				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	11/02/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>25</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	25	PM	N/A
AM	25	PM	N/A		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	<p>Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K</p>
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte and H. Sutherland
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

Saint Brendan's playgroup is a privately run service which operates out of 2 classrooms on the ground floor of St. Brendan's Boys National School, in a residential area in Dublin 5. The service provides education and care to children aged 2-5years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE); the session runs from 8:50am-11:50am Monday to Friday during school term. The children have access to the school yard for outdoor play.

Staffing

There were 8 adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider and two workers employed under the access and inclusion model. All the adults' present were working directly with the children in the service.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1), (3) Staffing Levels
- Regulation 16 (1) Record in Relation to a Pre-school service.
- Regulation 19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25(1), (2)(a)(b) First Aid

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1) (a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named persons to deputise. The registered provider was rostered to be on the premises during the opening hours of the service on the day of inspection. The registered provider was present in the service when the inspectors arrived and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the person in charge showed there are currently eight adults employed to work in service. All eight files were reviewed.

- (a) (b) Sixteen written references were available from a past employer or reputable source and all references for the staff members employed were validated by the registered provider.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all eight adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that six adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Evidence was not available to show that two adults who work worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Evidence of qualifications have been submitted for both staff members. In future all new staff will have to provide either a certificate from QQI or a letter of eligibility.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Record of awards.
- DCEDIY letter of recognised qualification.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventative action and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 9 has been addressed.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the following:

(1) (3) On the day of the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

There were eight adults caring for 25 children aged between 2 years 8 months and 5 years old when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service. The following was observed:

- In ECCE room 1 there was twelve children aged between 2 years 8 months - 5 years being cared for by four adults.
- In ECCE room 2 there was thirteen children aged between 2 years 8 months - 5 years being cared for by four adults.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
- (e) the facilities available;
- (f) the opening hours and fees;
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) Details of the name, position, qualifications, and experience of all staff were maintained within the staff files and displayed in the hallway.
- (b) A display in the hallway detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services.
- (c) Details of the adult child ratios were listed in the service policies.
- (d) (e) The service statement of purpose and function detailed the type of care or programme provided and the facilities available within the service.
- (f) The opening hours and fees of the service were displayed on a noticeboard in the hallway and were included in the statement of purpose and function.
- (g) The registered provider maintained the policies required in accordance with Regulation 10.

- (h) Attendance records detailing the arrival and departure of the children on a daily basis were maintained in each care room.
- (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day. A copy of the roster was displayed in the hallway.

Non-Compliance Information

- (j) The registered provider did not ensure that a form was available to record the administration of medication. The service policy advised that only emergency medication will be administered in the service and a record of the child's name, medication, dosage and route which will be signed by parents and staff however no form was available in the event of administration. A child was in attendance who required emergency medication on the premises.
- (k) The registered provider did not ensure a full record in writing was maintained for accidents and incidents. A sample of 10 forms were reviewed. Four forms were observed to be incomplete:
 - Three forms did not include the child's full name or date of birth.
 - One form did not include the manager's signature.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (j) A section has been added to the form to allow the parent to sign to acknowledge that medicine has been administered to their child. New forms have been printed for future use. Each child's information form will be checked by two members of staff to ensure that it contains the relevant information required.
- (k) The accident and incident book has been updated with the relevant information. Staff have been informed when filling out the accident form, all sections must be completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Medication administration form.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventative action and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 16 has been addressed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1) (b) Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed, as evidenced by the following:

- Lunch time was observed to be a pleasant and social experience. Children sat at tables joined by their peers and staff and engaged in discussion. Staff offered assistance with the opening of lunch items as needed. Children were given sufficient time to eat and enjoy their meal at their own pace.
- Staff supported children with toileting and informed the inspectors of the stop and go visual system by the toilet entrance supporting the dignity and privacy of the children.
- Children were observed to access the outdoor area on the day of the inspection. Staff gave clear guidance ensuring children were dressed appropriately for time outdoors.
- A staff member was observed helping a child with nasal hygiene practices and handwashing supporting the child's comfort and encouraging self-care skills.
- The activities observed on the day were suitable to age and stage of children present. Children were invited to take part and were given the choice to participate as they felt comfortable to do so.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The service entrance was secure when the inspectors arrived unannounced. The main entrance is accessed with the use of a buzzer system and attended to by an adult.
- A risk assessment for the outdoor area was displayed by the door.
- Staff were observed to have the children's register, and a first aid kit present in the outdoor area.
- Locks were observed in place on outdoor storage areas preventing children from gaining access to potential hazards.

Infection Control:

- Children's lunches containing perishable items were stored in the refrigerator.
- Warm water and dispensed soap were available to support hand hygiene practices. Staff were observed encouraging hand washing following toileting.
- Staff were observed to disinfect the tables before lunch time.

Administration of Medication:

- Emergency medication was observed stored in its original container and was clearly labelled.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were aware of the evacuation route in the event of an emergency.
- The emergency exit door was observed clear of obstruction on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A Garda vetting disclosure for 2 staff members was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. Flexes were observed in reach of children from the top of a low fridge and on the floor by the entrance to ECCE room 2 which posed a risk of injury.
3. A rug present in ECCE 2 was observed to curl and move with ease when stepped on posing a trip hazard in ECCE room 2.

4. A bottle containing cleaning product was observed accessible to children at the edge of the low sink in ECCE 1 which posed a risk of accidental posing.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Both staff members have applied for updated Garda vetting. All staff will be Garda vetted in line with requirements.
2. Furniture has been rearranged to ensure that electronics can be plugged in safely and ensure the flex is contained behind the press.
3. Rugs have been removed to ensure children's safety.
4. All cleaning products will be stored in a locked press beneath the sinks. If they are required during the school day they will be placed in a high place to prevent the children accessing them.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Evidence of submission for updated Garda vetting disclosures.
- Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventative action and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 23 has been addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available during the operational hours of the service to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous positions on the premises.