

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO018
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Name of Service:	Barnacarroll Pre-school
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Address of Service:	Barnacarroll Community Centre, Barnacarroll, Claremorris, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F12 YT57
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Name of Registered Provider:	Breda Reaney
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Inspection undertaken by:	B Lavin
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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).

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Description of service

Barnacarroll pre-school is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional services to children aged from two to six years of age. The service operates from a section of a community centre in Barnacarroll village near Claremorris in Co Mayo. There is a playroom on the ground floor and an additional three rooms used by the service on the first floor. The service has sanitary facilities, an office and a kitchen for the preparation of meals on the first floor. Two enclosed outdoor play areas are provided for the children on the premises. The service also has access to the community sports hall in the building and the use of the adjacent primary school grounds.

Staffing

There were 26 adults employed in the service at the time of the inspection including the manager, childcare workers, school age staff members, a cleaner and kitchen staff. The registered provider does not work 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.

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

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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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, 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.*

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the person in charge was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

(2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that there were 26 members of staff employed in the service including the registered provider, kitchen staff and staff who work with the school aged children.

(a) There were 35 written and appropriately validated references available from a previous employer.

(b) There were 15 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than previous

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employer.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service. 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 disclosures were available for four adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) There were 16 adults working directly with the children who had evidence of an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education or qualifications deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(9)(2)(a)(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were not available for one staff member working in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Two written and validated references are now on file. A recruitment file checklist has been added to staff files to ensure all the required documents are on file for new staff members.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed and the noncompliance identified under Regulation 9 has been adequately addressed.

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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.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children attending the preschool service.
There were 11 adults working directly with children on the day of inspection.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:
- Preschool 1: Six adults cared for 16 children aged between 2 and 4 years of age.
 - Preschool 2: Five adults cared for 20 children aged between 4 and 5 years of age.
- (8) There were at least two adults present in the service during the operation hours of the service.

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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

Basic Needs

(1)(a)

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The children in preschool room 2 had snack provided from home which consisted of cheese, crackers, fruit and yogurts. The children in preschool room 1 had a rolling snack provided by the service. This consisted of brown bread, rice cakes and fruit. Dinner was served to all children and consisted of chicken goujons, mash, vegetables and pasta.
- Drinking water was available on low tables in each playroom to all children throughout the day.
- Care and attention were taken during mealtimes to eat at the child's pace and staff encouraged and supported children to feed themselves independently according to their age and stage of development.
- Children sat at tables and chairs which were appropriate for their height and/or stage of development.
- The staff were observed sitting at the child's level and chatted in a respectful manner during meal and snack times.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected during toileting practices.
- Appropriate rest facilities were available in the care rooms and children were observed spending time in these areas for short periods of rest throughout the day.
- The children were observed playing in a variety of special interest areas, at free play, tabletop activities, circle time, outdoor play and group games.
- The children had access to a large sports hall onsite and were observed engaging in gross motor and group games in this space.

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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:

- A bell system was in place on an internal entrance door to the service to control admission of people to the service. This door was secured during the inspection to prevent children from leaving unsupervised.
- Access to the kitchen was secured from children with safety gates.
- The outdoor areas were secured with fencing and gates to protect the children within.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.
- The blind cords were appropriately secured to the windows throughout the service.
- Visibility strips were installed on glass doors and windows for safety precautions and to prevent injury to children and staff.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands after painting activities and before mealtimes.
- Paper towel, soap and lidded bins were available at the hand basins and sanitary areas in the service.
- The service was maintained in a clean condition.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered to a child by staff on the day of inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available. It was safely stored and in date. In conversation staff were able to detail the procedures for administering medication to children.

Safe Sleep:

- Stackable beds were available for the children over two years of age who required a nap.
- Regular sleep checks were carried out on the children and records were maintained.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were unobstructed throughout the service.
- Clear signage was available to highlight the exits.

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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for all 26 staff members. However, two vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'. It was noted on the day, that these two staff members worked with the school aged children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The garda vetting renewal forms have been completed. There is a list now in place in the staff files detailing renewal dates for staff members.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documentary evidence submitted to the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted were reviewed and the noncompliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.