

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX011
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Name of Service:	Barleyhill Childcare Centre Limited
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Address of Service:	Coolnahorna, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y21 C7P3
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Name of Registered Provider:	Pauline O'Byrne
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection Day 1:	09/12/2024
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Day 2:	10/12/2024
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	45	PM	27
No of pre-school children Day 2:	AM	51	PM	NA

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
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Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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
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Description of service

Barleyhill Childcare Centre Ltd. is a privately operated preschool service which offers a full day care, part-time, and sessional service to children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and can accommodate 70 children. The service has five playrooms: a baby room, a toddler room two, the jungle room, the cabin and the lodge. There are toilets, nappy changing facilities, a designated sleep rooms, an entrance hall, and outdoor play areas and garden to the front and rear of the service.

Staffing

There are 19 staff employed in the service. The manager was the designated person in charge and assisted across the rooms as needed. The registered provider was on the premises and supernumerary to the staff. The service also employed a chef and admin support. All the staff who work directly with the children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 17 Information for parents,
Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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, 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) The manager was the designated person in charge and had appointed a named deputy designated person in charge who was able to deputise, as required.
 - (b) The person in charge confirmed that they or their deputy are always present while the service is open.
- (2) The staff files for 19 staff were reviewed on the day.
- (a)(b) Two validated references were available for each of the staff members.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available on file for each staff member. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years in all cases.
 - (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4)
Certificates of qualification for staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Qualification Framework or qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(2)
In the morning on Day 1:

- **Baby room:** There were 4 babies in the care of 2 staff. (2 aged between 0 and 1 years and 2 aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Toddler room:** There were 14 children in the care of 4 staff. (6 aged between 1 and 2 years and 8 aged between 2 to 3 years).
- **Jungle room:** There were 15 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 2 and 5 years).
- **Cabin and Lodge rooms:** There were 12 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).

In the afternoon on Day 1:

- **Baby room:** There were 3 babies in the care of 1 staff. (1 aged between 0 and 1 years and 2 aged between 1 and 2 years).

- **Toddler room:** There were 8 children in the care of 4 staff.
- **Jungle room:** There were 16 children in the care of 2 staff. (all aged between 3 and 6 years).

In the morning on Day 2:

- **Baby room:** There were 5 babies in the care of 2 staff. (3 aged between 0 and 1 years and 2 aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Toddler room:** There were 16 children in the care of 4 staff. (8 aged between 1 and 2 years and 8 aged between 2 to 3 years).
- **Jungle room:** There were 14 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 2 and 5 years).
- **Cabin room:** There were 8 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Lodge room:** There were 8 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 3 and 4 years).

The manager was the designated person in charge and was supernumerary to the staff in the rooms, however assisted as needed in the childcare rooms.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The service had a parent handbook for parents with information about the service including contact details, opening hours, the facilities, drop off and collection procedure, complaints, the curriculum and key policies. The handbook is provided to parents as requested and included relevant information and key policies. Parents are provided with an opportunity to visit the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The five playrooms were set up and well-resourced with toys, materials and equipment suitable to the ages of the children using them. The playrooms had been developed since the last inspection, including painting of all rooms and new flooring in the toddler room.

There were child sized tables and chairs suitable for tabletop activities and snack time. The baby room had low level highchairs for feeding. The daily routine was calm and relaxed, with the children transitioning between activities seamlessly. For example, in the jungle room children enjoyed some sleep and relaxation after dinner, and as the children woke up the staff had invitations for play set up for them to engage in.

The rooms were well resourced with open shelves, home corners/kitchens, cosy nooks, books and art and craft materials. The rooms were redecorated since the last inspection and were now resourced with natural materials, open ended products, house plants, soft lighting, and materials that facilitated and encouraged imaginative play. The artwork displayed within the rooms showed the children’s current interest and seasonal themes. The children had created a gingerbread house from cardboard boxes, painted fireplaces and made homemade decorations. The activity trays had sensory and tactile experiences. The presence of birthday walls and family photos provided personalised touches for the children within the rooms.

Children enjoyed imaginative free play within the rooms and were offered choices. All the children had access to an outdoor play area. The play areas were fully enclosed and included sheltered areas and the addition of toilet block included a nappy changing unit. Mud kitchen, ride on toys, climbing frames, swings and sands pits were available. The presence of picnic benches allowed children the opportunities for painting, colouring and eating outside.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service promoted healthy eating and had a healthy eating policy. All snacks were provided by the parents and were stored in the fridge in the individual rooms in the service. The main hot meal of the day was prepared by a chef employed by the service. The dinner was served at mid-day and consisted of mince stew and mashed potatoes on the first day. On the second day there was homemade chicken curry with rice. There was a plentiful supply and children who wanted more food were served extra portions. The children were served the food in their rooms at child sized tables. Staff sat with the children chatting to them and giving them assistance if required.

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:

Visitors to the service were required to sign the visitors book on arrival to the premises. The outdoors areas were fully enclosed. Accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy.

Infection Control:

There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in all toilets and nappy changing areas. The staff were observed to supervise children's hand washing before snack, after outdoor play and after toileting and nappy changing.

The service was cleaned and well maintained. Lunch boxes that included perishable food items were stored in the fridges in the playrooms in line with safe food guidance.

Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff showed the inspector the procedure to follow when a

child required administration of medication. Recording of administration of medication was recorded in line with the service's policy.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy and a designated sleep room with cots for children under two years of age. There were sleep mattresses for children over two years. Children in the baby room were placed to sleep as they showed signs of tiredness and in line with their sleep needs. Children over two years were provided with the opportunity to sleep and rest while attending the service. Staff were observed doing sleep checks every 10 minutes on children in the baby and wobbler rooms. Staff remained in the room and monitored sleeping children who slept on the mattresses in the jungle room.

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)
There were staff trained in FAR and first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)
(a)(b) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The last recorded fire drill was carried out in November 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in September 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a certificate of insurance for a full day care service for 70 children.