

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019CC003			
Name of Service:	Barryroe Pre-school			
Address of Service:	Barryroe National School, Lislevane, Bandon, Co. Cork			
Eircode:	P72 YE28			
Name of Registered Provider:	Ireneaus Moloney			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	09/04/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	8
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440			
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy			
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Barryroe Preschool is a privately operated service that caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. It provides part-time care, sessional care and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Daily opening hours are from 9am to 2pm and 12 to 5pm. The service operates out of 2 care rooms which are situated in Barryroe National School. The care room located on the ground floor is named the Owlets room and the second care room located on the first floor is named the Owls room. There is a large outdoor play area available on the school grounds solely for use by the early years' children.

Staffing

There are 7 adults attached to the service including the registered provider and 2 adults employed via the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). On the day of the inspection, the 7 adults were on the premises.

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.

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, 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 service had a named person in charge who was the registered provider and had a named deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider was on the premises when the inspector arrived and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 11 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 7 adults attached to the service.
- (b) There were 3 references and required validations available from sources other than past employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file for review in respect of each of the 7 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years in respect of each adult.
- (d) Police vetting was not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework or letter from the Minister was available on file in respect of each of the 7 adults.

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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (2) On the day of the inspection there were 39 early years children and 7 adults that were working directly with them. The required adult child ratio of 1:11 was exceeded.
- (8)(a) There were always at least 2 adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that all the adults were on the premises prior to 9am and that 2 adults would be on the premises at 5pm when the service closed.

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)(a) PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The service operated out of 2 care rooms positioned in Barryroe National School . The care room situated on the ground floor was named the Owlets room and the care room on the first floor was named the Owls room.
- Each of the 2 care rooms was maintained in good condition and was attractively set up with play materials that promoted a cosy and pleasing environment for the children. Each room was provided with large windows which facilitated the rooms being bright and each had 2 high openings that facilitated ventilation as required.
- The care rooms were furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving, child sized couches as rest areas and a variety of play equipment that met the needs of the children.
- All play materials, play equipment and arts and crafts materials in both care rooms were clearly laid out on low shelving or in containers and were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- The registered provider ensured that all areas were interesting for the children such as fitting colourful number stickers to the steps of the stairs to facilitate children learning to count as they walked up each step whilst on their way to the Owl' room.
- The outdoor play environment which was situated on the school grounds and was set up to support the children's free play, imagination, and movement. It was provided with both grass and tarmac ground surfaces. There was a roof covered storage area used to store the play equipment such as the ride on and push toys from the rain and wind. The outdoor play area was furnished with sandboxes, picnic tables and seating, a low slide, multiple messy play kitchens, playhouses, a wooden train structure and a selection of ride on and play equipment.
- Adequate toilet facilities were available on the premises to meet the needs of the children. There were 4 toilet cubicles in total for children's use and 1 toilet room for adults' use.

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

- All the food ate by the children attending the ECCE and sessional service was supplied by their respective parents or guardians. On the day of inspection, the food for the mid-morning break consisted of a variety of sliced fruit, yogurts, and cheese or ham sandwiches.
- The food ate as the meal by the children attending part time care was provided by the children’s respective parents or guardians and consisted of a sandwich, a piece of fruit and water to drink. The registered provider provided food such as fruit or crackers for their snack break. Sealed containers of crackers and bread, and large bowls of fruit were available on the premises for children’s use. It was noted that the 8 children attending part time care were provided with a snack break at 1pm consisting of sliced fruit and drinks of water.
- Drinking water was always accessible to the children. The children’s individual bottles of water were stored on a low shelf in the fridge and were accessible to the children as they wanted a drink.

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 kitchen area in the Owls room was maintained secured and was not accessible to the children.
- All leads and flexes were kept out of children’s reach.
- The mop, mop bucket and hoover were no longer stored on the corridor leading to the entrance door of the Owlets room. Instead, they were stored in an area not accessible to the children.
- The boxes of breakfast cereal were no longer stored on the floor and instead were stored on high shelving in the kitchenette in the Owl care room.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins that were in good working order were provided throughout the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Each of the wash hand basins in the children's and adult toilet areas was not provided with thermostatically controlled hot water for hygienic handwashing after using the toilet. The water temperature was recorded at 13.7°C and 13.8°C respectively, which was the same temperature as the water from the cold taps. During the inspection, the water temperature was recorded at 13.3°C at the wash hand basin positioned in the adult's toilet area. It was acknowledged that both the Owllet and Owl's care rooms had each been provided with a wash hand basin that did have thermostatically controlled hot water for children's hand washing that was recorded during the inspection at 40.1°C and 33.6°C respectively.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The registered provider stated in her responses dated 26th and 29th April 2024 that she had a meeting with the national school principal and that going forward the switch for the hot water will be turned on daily while the pre-school is in operation. The registered provided also stated in her responses that she will ensure the switch for thermostatically controlled hot water is turned on when the pre-school is in operation. Thermostatically controlled hot water that is less than 43 °C is now provided to the wash hand basins in the children's and adult toilet areas.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. A photograph of the water temperature recorded at 42°C was submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photograph submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliance were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 fire fighting 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) There were records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service available on file. A fire drill was last carried out by the service on 20 March 2024.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced during February 2024 and that the wired smoke alarm was serviced on 13 December 2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each care room and on the notice board in the main foyer.