

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

9:00Tusla I.D:	TU2015MO020							
Name of Service	Barneys Playgroup							
Address of Service:	Tallagh, Belmullet, Co. Mayo, F26 RH26							
Email Address:	tishagallagher30@yahoo.ie							
Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Gallagher							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	ü	Sessional	ü		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Proposed addition of service of Part time. Proposed change of time to 9:00 -14:00							
Proposed Number of Children:	22							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Maximum of 18 children for part time service. 22 children for sessional service.							
Registered change:	Addition of a service type from Sessional to Part Time and Sessional for 22 Children (Max 18 Part Time) Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 – 15:30 to 09:00 – 14:00 Change in number of staff from 3 to 4 staff.							
Date of Inspection:	3	1	0	7	2	0	2	6
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello							
Title:	Interim Inspection Regulation Manager							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.							

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 18 Part Time)
Date of Registration	17 th August 2026

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Authority to Inspect

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

Description of Service	Barneys Playgroup is privately owned and operated and is registered to provide sessional services. The service proposes to operate an additional part time service. The service is registered to operate from 9:00 hours to 12:00 hours in the morning and 12:30 hours to 15:30 hours in the afternoon catering for children aged from 2-6 years of age and proposes to operate part time from 9:00 to 14:00.
Premises	The service is located in a dedicated section of the registered provider's home near Belmullet in Co. Mayo. There is a playroom and sanitary facilities provided in the building. Children have direct access from the playroom to an enclosed outdoor play area with play equipment. The children also have access to a second large grass area to the side and front of the building.
Staffing	It is proposed that there will be three staff members working directly with the preschool children. The registered provider is the person in charge and works directly with the preschool children.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider/person in charge, who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a)

There is a person in charge and a person available to deputise as required.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The person in charge is aware of the statutory requirements to ensure that at all times an adequate number of adults work directly with the preschool children. The proposed roster has three adults caring for 22 children in sessional service and three adults caring for 18 children in a part time service.

(8) (b)(c) Not applicable as there is always two people on site.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Requirement met:

This requirement has partly been met.

(1)(a)

The service demonstrated that adequate and suitable facilities for play are provided in respect of the children's age and stage of development. The main room consists of a large open space equipped age-appropriate toys and resources are laid out to stimulate the child's imagination. Open low-level shelving facilitates the young child to direct their sense of play. Opportunities for imaginary, role play, creativity are provided with home corners, construction areas, dress up and arts and crafts. There are sufficient tables and chairs to provide opportunities for table top activities and arts and crafts while also providing an appropriate space for mealtimes.

Outdoor:

There is direct access from the preschool room to the outdoor space, which allows for an alternative environment. Playhouses and mud kitchens are provided as well as a sand area and construction space. A shed stocked with equipment provides opportunities for gross motor skill development with bikes, trikes and tractors, footballs and ride on toys. Climbing frames, wooden cars, swings and slides, balance beams provide ample opportunities for physical skill development.

(b)

Opportunities for rest are provided in the rest area in the corner of the care room. A child size leather sofa with soft matting and cushions are provided to ensure children can rest or relax while reading a book.

The service envisages that children will have grown out of their morning sleep requirement, however three stackable floor beds are available for children is sleep is

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	required. The service is aware that if a number of children require sleep that a restful area is provided by utilising the other areas of the service to support the waking children to play.
Requirement not met:	This requirement is not met: (1) (b) The service sleep policy requires updating to include the following: • The provision of stackable floor beds. • The process on how physical sleep checks are carried out and recorded. • The required space requirements between floor beds for safety. • The monitoring of sleep room temperatures.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted a response with an updated sleep policy to include the following: • The provision of stackable floor beds. • The process on how physical sleep checks are carried out and recorded. • The required space requirements between floor beds for safety. • The monitoring of sleep room temperatures. This requirement has been met.
Summary Comment:	The actions submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed and accepted. This regulation has been met.

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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.

Requirement met:	This requirement has partly been met. It is proposed that breakfast and morning snack will be provided by the service. This will include a variety of breakfast cereals and fruit and yoghurt for snacks. Children attending for the part time service will be provided with an additional meal from home that will be stored in the service refrigerator. It is proposed that drinking water will be available and accessible to all children during the operating hours.
Requirement not met:	This requirement is not met. The service healthy eating policy requires to be updated to include the following: • Part Time services require two meals and one snack to be provided. • A sample menu plan The registered provider has been informed of the National standards for early learning and care services as a guide for nutrition in preschools.
Response from Provider:	In a written response the registered provider demonstrated that the healthy eating policy has been updated to include the following: • Part Time services require two meals and one snack to be provided. • A sample menu plan. This regulation has been met.
Summary Comment:	The actions submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed and accepted. This regulation is met.

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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has partly been met:

The service demonstrated the following safety measures:

- The service was secure on the inspector's arrival.
- The premises is secure with high level fencing and a locked doors controlling access.
- Foot pedal bins are provided across the service.
- Waste bins outdoors is secured away from the preschool children.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the preschool children.
- Toys are in good condition and free of pinch and crush points.
- Windows are secure and risk assessed with restrictors in place.

Requirement not met:

This requirement was not met:

The service did not demonstrate that the service was suitably safe, and risk assessed for the preschool children as follows:

1. Detergents including bleach were stored under a sink in the preschool room accessible to children which poses a significant safety risk if accessed and ingested.
2. A storage box of toys had numerous rips and tears and could not be cleaned effectively posing an infection control risk.
3. A chest freezer was stored in the preschool care room.
4. The outdoor area was decorated with fairy lights, however some of these lights were low lying with trailing wires accessible at children's heights posing a safety risk.
5. A trampoline was situated in the front garden. Trampolines are not permitted in early years services due to the safety risk.

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	6. A clothesline with a trailing flex located in a shelter area, posed a safety risk to the preschool children.
Response from Provider:	In a written response the registered provider stated: 1. Detergents including bleach have been removed to high level shelving out of reach of preschool children. 2. A storage box of toys has been removed. 3. The chest freezer was removed. 4. The outdoor decorated with fairy lights have been secured. 5. This trapline is for grandchildren's use and will be removed prior to the start of the service. 6. A clothesline with a trailing flex has been retracted.
Summary Comment:	The actions submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed and accepted. The requirement has been met.

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.

Requirement met:	This requirement has been met. (1) The service demonstrated by way of certification that one adult has been trained in first aid for children and is available to the preschool child during the operating hours. (2) (a)(b) Fully stocked first aid boxes with appropriate resources are available to children as required.
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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met

(1) (a)

Emergency evacuation drills occur in the service monthly as demonstrated by review of documented fire drills.

(b)

The service has a list of all firefighting equipment and smoke detection systems in the service with a maintenance date of 01 July 2026 and the 28 January 2026.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed throughout the service. A child friendly picture story is also displayed alerting children to emergency evacuation routes.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider has informed the insurance company of the proposed change in service provision. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place before the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered provider's compliance with Regulation 28.

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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has partly been met:

On a visual check the premises was found to be:

- (a) Of sound and stable structure with the person in charge not aware of any deficits or maintenance requirements.
- (b) The service was found to be safe and secure with secured access and egress points and high perimeter fencing and gates securing the outdoor area.
- (c) The service is adequately lit and ventilated with large openable windows and patio doors. The service is adequately heated with oil central heating providing ambient temperatures.
- (e) Two toilets were available for the preschool children as well as three hand wash basins. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available for effective hand hygiene. The service also had a staff toilet and wash hand basin for the adults in the service.

Requirement not met:

This requirement has not been met:

- (d)
 1. The outdoor area required to be cleaned and maintained and broken garden furniture required to be removed from the area.
 2. In the indoor area the corner of the room was used for storage with a chest freezer and stackable floor beds that required appropriate storage area.
 3. The children's toilet would not flush and required fixing.

Response from Provider:

The registered provider submitted information

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	1. The outdoor was cleaned broken garden furniture removed from the area. Photographic evidence submitted. 2. The corner of the room was cleared. Photographic evidence submitted. 3. The children's toilet flush has been fixed. Photographic evidence submitted. This requirement has been met.
Summary Comment:	The actions submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed and this requirement is now met.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:	This requirement has been met. (1) The registered provider demonstrated that adequate clear floor space has been provided for children to work, play and move. (2) The registered provider demonstrated that a minimum clear floor space is provided for each child attending the service as follows: • Floor space recorded as 43.44m² • Sessional minimum clear floor space requirement of 1.818m² suitable for the proposed 22 children. • Part time minimum clear floor space requirement of 2.35m², suitable for a maximum of 18 children availing of the proposed part time service. These proposed numbers of children were agreed with the registered provider during the inspection."
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