

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016FL500				
Name of Service:	Isabella's Childcare Beresford 1				
Address of Service:	22 Beresford Road, Turvey Ave, Donabate, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	K36 YF99				
Name of Registered Provider:	Ronnie Carroll				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	06/07/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>48</td> <td>PM</td> <td>49</td> </tr> </table>	AM	48	PM	49
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15				
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and Á Dunne				
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Isabella's Childcare Beresford 1 is one of 12 early year services operated by the registered provider. The service provides full day care to children from the ages of 2 – 6 years from 7.30am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday and operates from a two-storey purpose-built premises located in a residential area in Donabate. The building comprises of three care rooms namely the Caterpillar room and the Butterfly 2 room on the ground floor and the Butterfly 1 room on the first floor. A service kitchen prepares all the food eaten by the children and a large enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the building. In the outdoor area there is also a cabin, which is used for small group activities.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 18 staff who work directly in the service. This includes the designated person in charge, deputy person in charge, an area manager, a cook and 14 childcare staff, one of whom is currently on statutory leave, and another was relief cover from another service operated by the service. The inspection was facilitated by the operations manager and an area manager who were present. The designated person in charge, and the deputy person in charge service are available to assist with the care of the children if required.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,16,19,23 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16,19 and 23 and as a result, the scope of the inspection included The Caterpillar and Butterfly 1 rooms.

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 operations manager, area manager, the designated person in charge, deputy 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

(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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.

Compliance Information

(2) The files of 12 new staff members employed in the service since the last inspection were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures for 21 staff were also reviewed.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a) Fourteen validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Ten validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 21 staff members employed in the service. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.

(d) Police vetting was available from 10 countries in respect of 10 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult. The registered provider had secured a signed affidavit for one adult who required international police vetting from a jurisdiction where, although reasonable efforts had been made, vetting could not be obtained.

(4) Twelve staff members who work directly with the early years children had documentary evidence of 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, Disability and Equality

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

(7)(a) Documentary evidence was available to document that an induction process has commenced for a staff member. However, it was incomplete and did not demonstrate that the staff member had received supervised induction and training with regular review of their practice in line with the service policies and procedures.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(7)(a) In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated that a new induction checklist has been implemented ensuring all required induction, supervised training and review of practice are documented. Management will monitor to ensure induction and training needs are met.

Supporting documentation submitted

(7)(a) Revised checklist.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 9(7)(a) were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate.

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,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service at all times.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained so throughout the inspection. An additional staff member from one of the registered providers other services supported staff during lunch breaks.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Caterpillar room there were 9 children aged 2 to 3 years being cared for by 2 adults in the morning and 7 children in the afternoon.
- In the Butterfly 1 room there were 21 children aged 3 to 4 years being cared for by 4 adults in the morning and 19 children in the afternoon.
- In the Butterfly 2 room there were 18 children aged 4 to 5 years being cared for by 3 adults in the morning and 23 children in the afternoon.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

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:

- (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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) The arrival and departure of children in the two care rooms inspected were maintained in an electronic application.
- (i) Weekly staff rosters were available to demonstrate the details of staff present in the service daily.
- (j) On review of 5 administration of medication records the required information to include parental consent was recorded.
- (k) On review of 15 accident and incident records the required information was recorded in line with the service policy on accidents and incidents
- (3) Information referred to in paragraph (1) was available for inspection by an authorised person.

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-*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(b)
- Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed in the Butterfly 1 room, as evidenced by the following:
- A review of documentation, discussion with staff and observation on the day showed children were provided with varied food on a regular basis. Breakfast is served on arrival, a snack of fruit , rice cakes, breadsticks, hummus and cream cheese was served at 10:30-11am, a hot meal of pasta, pesto, tomatoes, cucumber and peppers was served at 12midday, and an afternoon tea of pancakes, fruit and breadsticks was served at 3:00pm. At 5pm a platter of fruits, cheese, ham and crackers is available to the children. There was a four-week menu plan displayed on the wall of the service and the service has a healthy food policy.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- There was sufficient food provided, with additional portions available on request and an alternative hot meal was available if required.
- Drinks of water were available to the children and were accessible in the care room.
- All children had access to outdoor play on the day of inspection. Suitable clothing and suncreams were available to the children.
- Daily routines were available and were reflected in practice in the Butterfly 1 room.
- Staff and children appeared to be familiar with the transitions between experiences such as that from play to mealtime. As a result, these transitions were prompt and smooth.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. Appropriate and suitable care practices were not observed in the Caterpillar room, as evidenced by the following:

- Staff were hesitant about providing children with additional food at morning snack and afternoon tea times despite it being available and children requesting it. The inspector had to intervene to request additional food be provided to the children when they request it.
- Water was not readily available to the children at their afternoon tea, with the inspector intervening to ask about available drinks which were then made available.
- Staff in the room did not take opportunities to sit with the children and engage in conversation and offer help during snacks and mealtimes, staff stood above the children and did not always display a positive approach to the children in their care and take the available opportunities to praise and encourage the children's achievements and developmental successes. Children require social engagement and positive interactions at their level to enable them to develop social skills and communication.
- A daily routine or schedule was not evident or on display in the Caterpillar care room and staff reported that there was no daily routine currently to work with in the care room. Routines and a daily schedule plan play an important role in the care of children as it assists staff members in remaining consistent in their approach to the children's care needs and it ensures transitions are managed in a timely manner, such as mealtimes, outdoor play and nappy changes.
- The environment and daily programme of activities were not sufficiently planned to organise and provide play activities in the Caterpillar room. During nappy changing and during transitions to mealtimes and from mealtimes to sleep time, children were observed to move around the care room without purpose appearing disengaged. Staff did not adopt positive strategies such as running

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

commentary, modelling, feedback and encouragement to nurture and promote children's development. It is acknowledged that the theme of Sea animals was mentioned on the short-term plan in the room, but this was not reflected in the room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

1. In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated that a staff meeting was held to address all points identified during the inspection. Staff allocation was reviewed and goals have been set for the room which will be reviewed regularly by the service manager who will monitor, support and supervise within the room.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(b)

1. Staff meeting, goals for room and daily routine.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 19(1)(b) were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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 main entrance into the service was secured and monitored by staff, this prevented the unauthorised entrance of an adult or the unsupervised exit of a child.
- Window restrictors were fitted on all openable windows.
- There were no hazardous items observed within reach of children, they were either stored on high shelving or in locked presses.
- Children were observed to be appropriately supervised on the stairway to the outdoor play areas.
- The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed, and the lock on the external gates was out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Adequate hand-washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included warm water, liquid soap and pedal operated bins.
- Children In the Butterfly 1 room were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet, after outdoor play and before mealtimes.
- While children slept, they were positioned with the recommended 50cm apart to reduce the potential risk of cross infection.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children.
- No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection. However, one child was on a medical care plan where medication may be required due to a medical condition. The service held all relevant paperwork in regard to an appropriate care plan, and staff demonstrated familiarity of the child's medical care needs during discussion with the inspector.

Safe Sleep:

- A sleep log was maintained where the temperature of the room and the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children was checked every ten minutes.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were clearly identified and unobstructed during the inspection and staff were familiar with the service fire evacuation procedures.

Outing:

- A staff member and 8 children from the Butterfly 1 room undertook an outing to a local park during the inspection. On discussion with staff and on review of documentation it was confirmed that staff were familiar with the policy and undertook the outing as per the service policy.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the Caterpillar room two trailing flexes from electronic devices were in reach of the children. This increased the potential risk of injury
2. Children in the Caterpillar room spent time in the Butterfly 1 room at lunch time. During this time there was inadequate supervision of the children while they accessed climbing equipment which was not a suitable size for their age and developmental ability. As a result, an accident occurred and a child fell. Staff should be aware of the suitability of equipment and the overall environment that they introduce children in their care to.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Infection Control:

3. In the Caterpillar room there was evidence to demonstrate that staff were unaware of the service policies and procedures on infection control, handwashing and nappy changing procedure. This increased the potential risk of cross infection. For example.
 - Nappy changing was not carried out according to the service policy and best practice guidelines. Staff did not remove their apron and gloves after removing a soiled nappy and handwashing was not completed consistently by both staff and children after the process was completed.
 - Food for children at snack and teatime was placed directly on the table, no bowls or plates were provided.
 - Not all the children had their hands washed before meals.
 - Paper roll used by the staff and children in the service were not always available or hygienically dispensed as rolls. This posed a risk of cross-contamination and was inadequate for infection control purposes. The paper towel dispenser in this area was empty

Safe Sleep:

4. The temperature of the Caterpillar room while children slept was recorded as between 22.9-23.8 °C. This is at variance with the recommended safe sleep temperature of 18-22 °C while children over the age of 1 year's sleep. It is acknowledged that staff opened windows, doors, had air conditioning units in place, and removed all clothing from the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that the trailing flexes were removed, and safety checks will be carried out to identify and address any potential hazards.
2. In response a staff meeting was held, and a risk assessment will be reviewed when children are moved between rooms.

Infection Control:

3. In response staff were retrained on the infection control policy and it was discussed at the staff meeting. Regular monitoring of infection control practices will be completed.

Safe Sleep:

4. In response staff were reminded of the safe sleep temperature. Additional air conditioning units were purchased, and a longer-term solution is planned.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Staff meeting
2. Staff meeting

Infection Control:

3. Staff meeting.

Safe Sleep:

4. Staff meeting agenda.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 23 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available on inspection for 65 children attending the service on a full day care basis with an expiry date of 27 March 2027