

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY356
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Name of Service:	Realt Beag
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Address of Service:	Ballyfermot STAR, 7 Drumfinn Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D10 FP66
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura O'Reilly
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	17/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	17
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L Magee
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

Realt Beag Ballyfermot S.T.A.R. Ltd is a purpose-built community based early years service which was established in 2007. The service provides full day care for children aged between three months to six years. The service is open, Monday to Friday between 8:45am - 5.15pm. There are three care rooms, Baby room, Toddler room and Preschool room. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas which are located on the ground and first floor levels.

Staffing

There were thirteen adults present on the day of inspection and of these eleven were working directly with the children. 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/ 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 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

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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.

Additional Information

Regulatory Compliance Meeting (RCM) held on 25 June 2026

A RCM was held to obtain assurances from the registered provider regarding the elevated room temperatures in the service on the day of inspection.

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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN	17/06/2026	The room temperatures in the Montessori room ranged between 22.6 °C - 23.5°C, despite measures being in place to reduce the room temperature. The room temperature in the Toddler ranged between 21.8°C and 22.1 °C while five children aged 2-3 years were sleeping. The room temperature in the Baby room while three children aged 1-2 years were playing ranged between 22.9 °C – 23 °C despite measures in place to reduce the room temperature.
Status	Preventative actions were submitted by the registered provider which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice.	

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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,*
- (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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present at all times on the day of inspection.

(c) There is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability for each employee.

(2) Following a discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that seven adults had commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 13 May 2024. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2), (3), (4) was reviewed in respect of these seven adults and for a further ten adults whose Garda

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vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Documentation was reviewed and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (a) Thirteen written validated references were provided from a past employer.
 - (b) One written validated reference was from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seventeen adults.
 - (d) Police vetting disclosures were not required as no adult lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than six months as adult.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to these seven adults commencing employment in the service.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available to show that all staff members who required a qualification and were employed to work directly with children attending the service held 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 equivalent by the Department of Children.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in each preschool room on the day of inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to on the day of inspection.

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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-

(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)

Staff informed the inspector that all food is provided by the service, this includes breakfast on arrival, a hot dinner and a snack. Water was available and within easy reach for the children throughout the day and milk was given with their lunch. The children were encouraged to feed themselves in younger care rooms and staff assisted children where required. The children ate their lunch in the communal dining area, where they sat together chatting happily with each other and the staff. Child led sleep was facilitated in the Baby room. While children in the Toddler room who required a day time nap were given the opportunity to sleep after lunch time. The children were made comfortable for sleep, with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers to those who used them.

Staff were observed helping the children with an appropriate balance of independence and supervision during nappy changing, when using the toilet and when washing their hands. Gentle warm interactions were observed between the staff and children throughout the inspection. All children spent time playing outdoors, they all had their sunscreen applied along with their sun hats before going out to play. The children in the Montessori room were growing strawberries and were very excited as one of the strawberries had ripened and they were able to taste it.

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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:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Equipment was appropriately maintained and items that could cause harm to children including medicines and cleaning products were secured out of their reach. The fire escape routes were free from any obstructions to allow for timely evacuation in the event of a fire. The outdoor play areas were safely enclosed by a surrounding fence.

Infection Control:

On the day of inspection, the children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, nappy changing and before meals. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to support these hand hygiene practices. Children's nappies were changed in line with the service's nappy changing policy to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector.

Safe Sleep:

Children were physically monitored every ten minutes by staff while sleeping and sleep checks were documented. Staff remained in the room at all times when the children were sleeping. During discussion with staff, they demonstrated they were familiar with the safe sleep guidelines.

Fire Safety:

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire. A record of regular fire drills which were conducted was available in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement IN0129 served.

Infection Control:

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1. There were no waterproof mattress protectors on the five cots in the sleep room. These are required to keep the mattress hygienic and dry by preventing liquids from soaking into it.

Administration of Medication:

2. The service did not have a care plan for a child who had been prescribed medication in the event of an emergency. A care plan is required to provide clear instructions to all staff on what signs to look for in the event of an emergency. It would ensure the safe accurate and consistent administration of the medication was given and outlines emergency responses in case of an adverse reaction or a medical event.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

The service purchased five new waterproof mattresses. These waterproof mattresses have been positioned on the five cots in the baby room.

Administration of Medication:

Medication care plans in place provide clear instructions to all staff of signs of an emergency; information on how to administer the medication; outlines emergency response in case of an adverse event or a medical event. Medication care plans will be required for all children prescribed medication.

Supporting documentation submitted:

Documentation was submitted to support these non-compliances.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider has addressed these non-compliances. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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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) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. It was positioned in an easily accessible and conspicuous position, in each preschool room.

(b) The first aid box is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times