

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024FL003			
Name of Service:	Isabella's Childcare Beresford 2			
Address of Service:	39 Beresford Crescent, Donabate, Dublin, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	K36 K3H7			
Name of Registered Provider:	Ronnie Carroll			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	02/06/2026			
No of pre-school children:	AM	55	PM	52
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Business Park, Ballycool, Dublin 15			
Inspection undertaken by:	Y Kelly & AM Coyle			
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).

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Description of service

Isabella's Childcare Beresford 2 is one of multiple services owned and operated by the registered provider which provides full daycare, part time daycare and sessional preschool to children between the ages of 1 and 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. This service also participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year. The service is conducted from a purpose built 2 storey premises located in a residential area. There are 5 care rooms, namely the Cocoon room, Little Caterpillars room and the Caterpillar room on the ground floor, and the Butterfly room 1 and 2 on the first floor. A cot room is located on the ground floor between the Cocoon room and the Little Caterpillars room. Ancillary accommodation includes sanitary facilities on both floors, a kitchen on the ground floor and an office and a staff room located on the first floor. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear and to the front of the premises. In February 2026 the service transferred ownership to the current registered provider.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a service manager to oversee the daily operational management of the service supported by a team of 14 staff members who work directly with the children and 1 staff member employed for catering duties. This includes a deputy manager, area manager, and chief operating officer who were all present on the day of the inspection. In addition, there were 2 staff members from another service providing cover in a relief capacity on the day of the inspection. The registered provider was not present in the service during the inspection.

Methodology

Tusla 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

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- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26, and 28, however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulation 27. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Cocoon Room, Little Caterpillars Room, the Caterpillar Room, Butterfly 1 room and Butterfly 2 room. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16.

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 management team, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN number: 1044	02/06/2026	IN issued to the registered provider as international police vetting was not available for 1 staff member as required.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the Notice and the provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate.	

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.
- (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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There was a designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 09:15am.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection records and in discussion with the service manager, it was confirmed that 10 new staff members had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection which was carried out on the 19 August 2025. The full staff files for 12 adults were reviewed including 10 new staff members and 2 staff members from another service providing cover on the day of the inspection. The following was recorded:
- (a) Twenty-three written validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) One written validated reference was available from a reputable source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 12 adults whose files were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring the service to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International Police vetting was available for 9 adults who had lived outside of the state for a period of more than 6 months.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 12 staff members whose files were reviewed and who may work directly with the children in 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 eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to the Improvement Notice IN 1044 served.
- (3) The procedures as outlined in paragraph (2) were not carried out prior to adults working with or having access to children in the service, as evidenced by the following:
- International police vetting disclosure in relation to 1 adult prior to these adults having access to and contact with the children.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2)(d) International police vetting was obtained that evening and sent to inspectorate.

Preventive Action

(2)(d) As per the services' recruitment policy the service will ensure all staff members files are complete and compliant. On this occasion the staff member was in situ before acquisition. Senior Management will ensure all outstanding documents are followed up more proactively.

Corrective Action

(3) International police vetting was submitted to inspectorate the next day.

Preventive Action

(3) Ensure all staff files are compliant prior to start date.

Supporting documentation submitted

- International police vetting for 1 adult

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 9 have been addressed.

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,

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Compliance Information

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

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

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

- In the Cocoon Room there were 6 children aged 1 year to 1 year 5 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Little Caterpillars Room there were 11 children aged 2 years 1 month to 2 years 9 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Caterpillar Room there were 11 children aged 2 years 7 months to 3 years 4 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Butterfly 1 Room there were 13 children aged 3 years 6 months to 5 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Butterfly 2 Room there were 14 children aged 3 years 7 months to 5 years 3 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present in the service at all times. This was confirmed by the staff roster.

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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:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) (k) The registered provider ensured that accident and incident records were kept in written records. A sample of 19 accident and incident records were reviewed as part of the inspection, and all accident and incident records were completed and signed by parents as a means of ensuring that parents had been informed that their child had an accident/incident whilst attending the service. Examples of this practice included 14 forms maintained from 13/02/2026 to 23/04/2026 and 5 forms maintained from 5/05/2026 to 20/05/2026.

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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- Children's meals were cooked and served by the chef. On the day of the inspection the children had rice cakes and fruit for morning snack, pesto pasta for dinner and pancakes, yoghurt and fruit for tea. There were alternative food options available for children with additional dietary requirements or preferences.
- The children's personal care needs were attended to promptly. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently as needed. The staff members used the opportunity to engage with and chat to the children. The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently.

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- The children in the Cocoon room slept in cots in the cot room, there were 3 cots available to children in this room and 1 child slept on a cocoon bed at scheduled sleep times, in the morning and after they had their dinner. The children aged over 2 years in the service attending the Caterpillar room who required sleep slept on stackable beds set up in the Cocoon room after the children had their first hot meal in the service.
- Children attending the service were given the opportunity to spend time in the outdoor areas during the inspection.

Supporting relationships and interactions around children:

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children. Children who had recently started in the service were comforted by staff when upset. Appropriate communication using soft tones was observed and children were provided with comfort when needed. This supported the development of relationships and a sense of belonging.
- During transition to sleep, staff were available to assist the children in getting ready and helping them to settle whilst going to sleep.
- Staff complete daily records sheet to share information about children's care needs with parents. This included information about meals, nappy changing and sleep.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. For example, children had their own coat hook identified by children's names and photographs of the children and birthday charts included children's photographs. Children's artwork was displayed throughout the service.

Physical and material environment:

- There was age-appropriate furniture with small child sized chairs and tables for children to sit whilst they played or for mealtimes. Toys and equipment were visible and accessible to children on low level shelving which facilitated children's independence in play. The rooms were divided into different areas of interest which provided opportunities for a variety of spontaneous play experiences and choice for children. There were home corners and role play areas with wooden kitchen, real life crockery and small world items such as dolls and animals, and transportation toys such as cars, fire engine, wooden trains and train tracks to support imaginative and interactive play. Construction materials included wooden and foam building blocks and plastic building bricks. There were tabletop materials such as jigsaws to support fine motor development. There were art and craft areas with art materials to include pencils, chalk and scissors to support creative art and mark making for children. There were cosy areas equipped with child sized

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armchairs and sofas, rugs, cushions, blankets and a selection of books for reading and relaxation and providing opportunities for storytelling. There was a variety of natural, open ended and real-life materials in the indoor and outdoor environments to include a Treasure Basket with materials such as pine cones, wooden spoon, brushes, steel cups and steel ball.

- A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear and to the front of the service. In the outdoor play area to the rear of the service, there were interest areas to include a wooden kitchen area with real life items which provided opportunities for pretend and dramatic play. There was a large, enclosed digging area with mud and pieces of wood sandpit and tuff tray with water for sensory play. There was a ride on tractor, wooden, climbing frame, wooden bridge, and slide with tunnel which promoted gross motor and fundamental movement skills. There were tyres with foam blocks for construction play. There were transportation toys such as wheelbarrows which supported children to move materials around the outdoor environment and promoted opportunities for schematic play. Children's wellies and waterproof gear was provided for outdoor play. The area to the front of the service was directly accessible via the Caterpillar room, the area was surfaced with artificial grass, a wooden climbing frame and see-saw which provided the children with gross motor play opportunities. A wooden play kitchen was available to enhance the children's imaginary play experiences. Additionally, a sensory table was available along with leaves, stones, dinosaur, and shovels and a tuff tray and metal tray with water, metal spoons, water wheel and buckets. Materials such as wooden planks and foam blocks provided open ended, co-operative play and risky play opportunities for children.

Programme of Activities and its Implementation:

- Staff carry out a daily schedule and curriculum planning to inform an emergent curriculum based on children's emerging interests. Children's learning experiences are documented in 'Floor Books' which are displayed throughout the service.

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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:

- Following an incident notified to the Inspectorate by the registered provider, signage on doors that opened to care rooms had been implemented to remind staff to open doors leading into care rooms with caution.
- An Accident/Incident risk assessment was carried out to ensure spaces were safe for use by children.
- The door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children during the inspection.
- The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed and secured and was mainly surfaced with artificial grass.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of the children.
- Suncream was observed being applied to the children for outdoor play.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Children were observed to hand wash independently before meals, and this was encouraged and supported by staff.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.
- Children's health care plans were kept in the care rooms.

Safe Sleep:

- The inspectors observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were being performed and documented on sleeping children, noting each child's colour, position and breathing pattern at the time of each check.
- Fresh linen was put on stackable beds for each child to sleep on.

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Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The ambient temperatures in the following rooms were not maintained at 18 °C -22 °C as detailed in the table below. These temperatures posed a risk to the safety and comfort of the children in attendance. It is acknowledged that when asked by the inspectors the staff continued to implement control measures seeking to achieve recommended temperatures by opening windows and doors and acquiring additional air conditioning units to enhance ventilation in the rooms, in addition to using portable fans. However, although partially effective as evidenced in the temperatures recorded during the afternoon, these measures did not prevent the room temperature from remaining high.

Date	Location	Air temperature	Time recorded
02/06/2026	Cot room	24.6 °C	12.38pm
		23.9 °C	12.39pm
		24.8 °C	13.30pm
02/06/2026	Cocoon room	25.4 °C	13.09pm
		24.8 °C	13.10pm
02/06/2026	Caterpillar room	23.5 °C	13.15pm
02/06/2026	Butterfly 1 room	26.3 °C	13.15pm
		26.3 °C	14.40pm
		26.6 °C	16.10pm
02/06/2026	Butterfly 2 room	27.5 °C	13.05pm
		27.4 °C	14.40pm
		27.3 °C	16.15pm

Infection Control:

- The services nappy changing policy was observed not to be followed as evidenced by the following:
 - The nappy changing mat was observed not to be cleaned in between children having their nappies changed.

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- Inadequate space, which was found to be less than the recommended distance of 50 cm apart, was left between beds of sleeping children set up in the Cocoon room and the Caterpillar room. The inadequate space between the beds increased the risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

General Safety:

- At present the service has added additional air conditioning units to help manage the room temperatures.

Infection Control:

- All staff were reminded of the requirement to clean and disinfect the changing mat between every nappy change.
- The sleep areas were reorganised to ensure a minimum distance of 50cm was maintained between beds wherever possible. Staff were reminded of the spacing requirements for sleep environments.

Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The service will install a full air conditioning system to ensure the rooms can be kept at an appropriate temperature. The service is awaiting installation date.

Infection Control:

- The nappy changing procedure has been reviewed with all staff. Management will carry out regular observations to ensure nappy changing procedures are consistently followed. The importance of infection prevention and control practices will be reinforced during team meetings and supervision sessions.
- Sleep room layouts in the rooms have been reviewed to ensure beds are positioned in line with recommended spacing requirements. Staff have been reminded to check bed spacing each time beds are set up for sleep. Room leaders will monitor sleep room set-ups to ensure appropriate spacing is maintained. Sleep arrangements will be included in regular health and safety cheques carried out by management. It will also be a topic to discuss in the next staff meeting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

- Staff meeting agenda.
- Photographs of new sleep room set up.

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Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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 an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and a staff member trained in FAR was available on the premises throughout the opening hours of the service. There were 4 staff members trained in First Aid Response (FAR), 3 of whom were present on the day of the inspection.
- (2)(a) Adequately stocked first aid kits were observed throughout the service.
- (b) First aid boxes were stored out of the reach of the children but available to staff as needed.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- 1 (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last fire drill dated as having been carried out on the 27 May 2026.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record for firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment was last serviced in September 2026, and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 10 February 2026.
- (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

Adequate supervision was not provided at all times in the service as evidenced by the following:

At 16:10 pm a child aged 2 years 11 months was observed alone by the early years inspector in the internal corridor of the service. The inspector immediately liaised with the assistant manager who returned with the child to the bathroom. It emerged that the child had been brought from the garden to use the sanitary facilities adjoining the Little Caterpillars room. The staff member sought support from the staff of the Little Caterpillars room, as they returned to supervise children in the garden. The child subsequently left the bathroom onto the internal corridor of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The incident was discussed with the staff involved immediately. Staff were reminded that children must remain under the supervision of a staff member at all times, including during toilet visits.

Preventive Action

Staff will clearly communicate and confirm responsibility when a child is being supervised by another staff member. Children brought in from the garden to use the toilet will remain with the staff member until they have safely returned to the room or outdoor area. Previous practice of free flow between areas is no longer permitted. Children must now be accompanied and supervised by a staff member when moving between rooms, corridors,

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bathrooms, and the outdoor area. This will be discussed with the team at the staff meeting to ensure a consistent approach.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Meeting agenda.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances under Regulation 27 have been addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 79 children for full day care with an expiry date of 27 March 2027.