

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR078
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Name of Service:	The Park Academy Beacon South Quarter
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Address of Service:	The Cubes, Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 YV99
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Name of Registered Provider:	Louise Barrett
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Service type:	Full Day Care
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Day 1 of Inspection:	10/04/2024
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Day 2 of Inspection:	11/04/2024
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No of pre-school children 10/04/2024:	AM	74	PM	72
No of pre-school children 11/04/2024:	AM	75	PM	75

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond and Linda Magee
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This private childcare facility was established in 2008 and is one of eight early years services operated by the registered provider. Full day care is provided for children ranging in age from ten months to six years of age from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum number of 115 children.

The service operates from a purpose-built premises in a mixed-use development complex in an urban area of south county Dublin. Care is delivered across six rooms and two cot rooms are also available. The Bunnies room caters for the youngest children attending who are aged from ten to fifteen months, Jellytots caters for children aged one to two years, Rascals and Appledrops cater for children aged up to three years of age and the Smarties and Owls rooms accommodate the older children attending. There is a dedicated sensory room and two enclosed outdoor spaces. Both outdoor spaces had impact absorbing coverings and a variety of play materials and equipment provided.

Staffing

There were twenty-six adults employed to work with pre-school children including the manager, deputy manager and an adult who was in training for another service. An area manager was on-site to provide support for the inspection process. Twenty-five adults employed to work directly with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent. One adult who did not have the required qualification had a Letter of Qualification Recognition which had been issued by the DCEDIY.

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 areas of governance, facilities and safety. The inspection may focus on other areas as required.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 First aid

Regulation 26 Fire safety

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 reoccurring. 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 co-operation of the designated person in charge, area manager and staff members who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on both days of 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.*

(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

The files for twenty-six adults who were employed by the registered provider and another adult who was present on the day of inspection were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for adults employed in the service.
 - (b) References from other sources were available for adults who did not have a previous employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting dated within the last three years was available for all adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for twenty-five adults for whom it was required.

(4) Twenty-five adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were twenty-two adults working directly with seventy-four children on the first day of inspection and twenty-two adults available to work directly with seventy-five children on the second day of inspection.

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-
(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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had provided adequate and suitable facilities for children to rest.

(b) There were two cot rooms with a total of thirteen standard cots available for children to sleep and rest when required. A further eleven foldable cots were available for children to use within the care rooms for sleep at prescribed times and stackable beds were also provided for children over two years of age. The safety mattresses provided were clean, firm and all had waterproof coverings. The bed linen was suitable and used, cleaned and stored appropriately for individual children. The rest areas provided within the care rooms were suitably resourced with mats, cushions and other soft furnishings. Large couches were provided in the Owls and Smarties rooms where older children who do not have a prescribed rest time during the day could rest or take a break from activities if required.

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 entrance door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting unsupervised. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. Window blind cords were secured. Adults described safe procedures for emergency evacuation in the event of a fire, including exiting the building from the closest available exit as indicated by signage.

Infection Control:

Children's hands were washed before eating and after outdoor play. Good hygiene practices by adults were observed including washing their hands after cleaning children's noses, handwashing before serving food to children and cleaning tables and highchairs before and after children ate from them. Foot pedal bins were used appropriately by adults and older children.

Administration of Medication:

There were procedures in place to safely administer medication when required. A manager or supervisor must be present when medication is being administered. The documentation available supported the safe administration of medication.

Safe Sleep:

The temperature of the cot room where children under one year of age were sleeping was maintained within the recommended range of 16 -20 degrees Celsius. All sleeping children were physically monitored and sleep checks were accurately recorded every ten minutes.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing procedures observed were not effective for infection prevention and control. The steps outlined in the nappy changing policy which was available were not correctly followed.
2. There was no effective system in operation to manage the cleaning and sterilising of mouthing toys and equipment in the Bunnies and Jellytots rooms.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Staff were retrained in the nappy changing procedure and observed carrying out nappy changing by the centre management team to ensure the correct steps were followed. All changing rooms will have a visual nappy changing procedure on display. This has been added to the managers daily check sheet to ensure the procedure is displayed in all nappy changing facilities.
2. Mouthing toys will be cleaned and sterilised in sterilising solution daily. The manager will ensure that the sterilising procedure is being followed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Visual nappy changing procedure

Managers daily checklist

Summary Comment

The actions as stated when implemented will address the non-compliances. Practices will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

The regulatory requirement is deemed to have 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.

Compliance Information

(1) Three adults working in the service had valid qualifications in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and were available to children. Other adults working in the service also had relevant training in first aid for children.

(2) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available.

- (a) They were stored safely in conspicuous positions in the care rooms.
- (b) The first aid boxes were available to children at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a record available of fire drills which had taken place; the last recorded fire drill was on the 13 March 2024.
 - (b) There was a maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated the 13 June 2023 and a record to show the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced on the 2 April 2024.