

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR078		
Name of Service:	The Park Academy Beacon South Quarter		
Address of Service:	The Cubes, Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D18 YV99		
Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	26/08/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	66	PM 67
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	O Quill and L 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		

Description of service

The Park Academy Beacon South Quarter is one of a multiple of services operated by the registered provider. Full day care is provided for children ranging in age from 0-6 years from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

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. The Bunnies room caters for the youngest children attending who were aged from one year to fourteen months, Jellytots caters for children aged one to two years, Rascals and Appledrops catered for children aged one to two years of age. The Smarties room catered for children aged two three years and the Owls room accommodated children aged three to five years. Two designated sleep rooms were provided and a sensory room was available. Two separate enclosed outdoor spaces were provided on the premises.

Staffing

Twenty-three staff are employed in the service including the manager, deputy manager and two housekeeping staff. On the day of inspection twenty staff worked directly with pre-school children. An additional staff member arrived from another service operated by the registered provider during the inspection to provide support in the care rooms as required. The area director arrived after the inspection commenced and remained for the feedback meeting. 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b) and (c), (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment

11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels

16(h)(i)(j)(k) Record in relation to Pre-school Service

19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

28 Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(h)-(k) Record in relation to Pre-school Service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Bunnies, Jellytots, Rascals and Smarties rooms and did not include the Owls and Appledrops 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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 26 August 2025 for non-compliance with regulation 23 the temperature in the Rascals room was recorded above the recommended temperature for a sleep room as detailed under regulation 23.

The registered provider submitted a response on the 27 August 2025 which was deemed to satisfactorily address this non-compliance.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, area director, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.*

(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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The person in charge and a named deputy were always on the premises during the inspection.
 - (c) The service had a clearly documented management structure with staff roles outlined. Staff demonstrated an understanding of their roles and responsibilities and the lines of authority within the service.
- (2) The files for adults employed in the service who had access to children at the time of the inspection were reviewed. This included records for seventeen adults who had been employed since the previous inspection on the 11 April 2024.
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for adults employed in the service.
 - (b) Suitable references from other sources were available for adults who did not have a previous employer
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for twenty six adults. This included the area director, a contractor and an adult from another service who were present on the day of inspection. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) International police vetting had been sourced as required for seventeen adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that sixteen adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. One adult held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

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,

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were sixty-seven children attending the service being supervised by twenty adults.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times. The staff roster provided for a minimum of two adults to be on the premises at all times of opening.

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.*

Compliance Information

(h) Details of the attendance of each child in the Bunnies, Jellytots, Rascals and Smarties rooms were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

(i) The staff roster was available on inspection and reflected the adults working in the service.

(j) A sample of eight medication administration records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

(k) A sample of ten accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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*
- (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)(a), (b)

The service had a healthy eating policy. Meals and snacks were provided at regular intervals throughout the day. At lunch time a hot meal of rice, chicken and vegetables was served. Staff were observed sitting with children at mealtime and engaging in conversation with children promoting a relaxed atmosphere. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported younger children who needed assistance with their dinner. Children were provided with individual face cloths to clean their face and hands after eating. Drinks were always available within the rooms and were offered with meals and snacks.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. Children were supported to use the toilet independently and younger children's nappies were changed at scheduled times and in between.

The children slept in cots and low beds appropriate to their age and stage of development after dinner. They were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their outer clothing and providing soothers for those who used them. Staff discussed maintaining connections with families daily by speaking with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service and additional information is shared via a computer app including meals, sleep and nappy changing.

The care rooms were well resourced with a variety of toys, materials and books which were easily accessible from the low-level shelving provided. The indoor areas had some interest areas to include a home corner and construction areas. Areas with matting and cushions were available for children to rest or take a break from activities as required.

Each care room had a designated time for outdoor play. Children were observed to enjoy time spent in the outdoor play area moving freely and engaging in different games with staff. Both outdoor areas had an impact absorbent matting surface and a variety of equipment to support various forms of play.

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 adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- Blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supervised washing their hands after outdoor play and prior to eating.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of mouthed toys.
- Children's bed linen was stored in individual boxes. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly or more frequently if required.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the service's policy on medication administration.
- Staff were knowledgeable when spoken to about care plans available for children who had specific medical needs.

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 where children were sleeping on low beds.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed. The fire drill procedure and fire escape plan were displayed in the service.

- Staff demonstrated through discussion they were familiar with the fire drill procedure.

Non-Compliance Information

Safe Sleep:

1. The temperature of the Rascals room whilst children slept was recorded at 26.3°C and not maintained at the required temperature of between 18-22°C for safe sleep. Staff did not maintain a record of the room temperature before children went to sleep or while they slept. An air conditioning unit was in operation at the time. It's acknowledged further action was taken at the time by the area director and a second air conditioning unit was brought into the room and turned on. An immediate action notice was issued on the day of inspection for the temperature of the room whilst children slept.

General Safety:

2. In the Rascals and Smarties room trailing flexes from the air conditioning units posed a potential tripping hazard.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Safe Sleep:

1. On the day of the inspection a second air con unit was brought into the Rascals room to help to reduce the temperature, children were offered extra water before sleep time children also slept in a lighter layer of clothing. We have amended our Mangers daily checklist to state that in warmer weather the Manager will ensure all air con units are turned on in all rooms and blinds are lowered to minimize sun glare first thing in the morning to reduce the room temperature. Management have also amended our over 2's sleep log to state that the room temperature is to be recorded at sleep time daily

General Safety:

2. In the Rascals and Smarties room trailing flexes from the air conditioning units have since been tacked to the wall. Checking all lexes is on the daily hazard checklist which is carried out daily in all rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence that insurance was in place for a maximum number of one hundred and fifteen children valid until 30 April 2026.