

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR079
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Name of Service:	The Park Academy Beacon Court
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Address of Service:	Unit 7-9 Beacon Court, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 V963
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Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection: Day 1	11/02/2026
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Date of Inspection: Day 2	12/02/2026
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No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	103	PM	106
No of pre-school children: Day 2		110		N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill, Sarah Quigley
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

The Park Academy Beacon Court is one of a multiple of services operated by the registered provider. Full day care and part-time care is provided for children ranging in age from 0-6 years of age. The service is open from 7.30am until 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from a purposefully adapted premises over three levels in a business park in Sandyford County Dublin. Care of the children was delivered across eight rooms. Two separate cot rooms were available, and cots were provided within care rooms for children attending the Buds and Butterflies rooms. An outdoor play area is accessible on the premises.

Staffing

In total 44 adults are employed to work in the service including a cook and domestic staff. The person in charge and deputy person in charge were available to provide additional support as required. The area director arrived to support staff during the two days of inspection.

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. However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under regulation 29 premises and facilities as detailed under regulation 29.

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These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health, welfare and development of child and regulation 16 (1) (h)-(k) record in relation to pre-school service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms: Butterflies, Rascals, Jelly tots, and Appledrops and did not include the Buds, Bunnies, Owls and Smarties.

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 person in charge, area director, staff and children who were present on the days 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*

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- (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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The person in charge was on the premises at all times during the days of inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or the named deputy to be present at all times of opening.
 - (c) The management structure was clearly documented. The service had a service manager and assistant manager. The service manager reports to an area director who oversees several of the company's services. The area manager in turn reports to the registered provider. Staff demonstrated an awareness of their individual roles and the lines of authority.
- (2) The inspection included a review of files for new adults employed since the last inspection on the 03 March 2025. In total 29 adults were employed and in addition to this a file was also reviewed for a music contractor who was present on the first day of inspection.
- (a) & (b) In total 58 written validated references were available.

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- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 30 adults. The registered provider ensured Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed for all adults in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was required and available for 28 adults.
- (3) All records outlined under regulation (2) above were dated prior to the adult's start dates.
- (4) All adults employed to work with pre-school children held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a), (b) Two written references provided for one adult were unsuitable as they were not from the most recent employer or an appropriate professional source.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a), (b) The adult whose references were not accepted was an external music teacher. The external company was able to provide us with additional references. Recruitment will not accept this type of reference from external contactors moving forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider are satisfactory and deemed 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.*

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(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) On the day of inspection, there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(2) The minimum adult-to-child ratio was maintained for the days of inspection. On the first day of inspection there were 30 adults working directly with 103 children in the morning, and 30 adults working directly with 106 children in the afternoon. On the second day of inspection there were 30 adults working directly with 110 children in the morning.

(8)(a) There were always more than two adults present during the inspection. The staff roster provided for a minimum of two adults to be present 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

(1)

(h) Attendance records were available for each child detailing the time they entered and left the service.

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- (i) The staff roster was available and reflected the adults working in the service on the days of inspection.
- (j) A sample of ten medication administration records were reviewed. All forms had signed parental consent and were completed appropriately.
- (k) A sample of fifteen 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 demonstrated that each child's learning development is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through effective care practices and well-organised learning environment.

A healthy eating policy was in place and staff confirmed that all meals were provided by the service. At lunchtime, children were offered vegetable soup with sliced bread. Staff supported younger children to put on bibs to protect their clothing from spills. Children were observed feeding themselves, with assistance provided where required. Second servings of soup and bread were offered to children who had finished. Children were offered drinking water at mealtimes. Staff sat with the children, fostering a relaxed, sociable atmosphere and supporting positive interactions.

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Following meals, children's personal care needs were attended to respectfully. Individual face cloths were used to clean children's hands and faces, promoting good hygiene practices. Nappies were changed as required, and staff engaged warmly and positively with children during these routines. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently, encouraging self-help skills and confidence.

Rest time was managed sensitively. Children were made comfortable for sleep, with outer clothing removed as appropriate. Relaxing music was played to create a calm environment, and soothers were provided for those who required them. The atmosphere during rest time was peaceful and nurturing. Staff remained with the children soothing them to sleep.

Transitions throughout the day were managed smoothly. Children were given advance notice of changes in routine, and songs and stories were used effectively to support these times. Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Warm respectful interactions between staff and children were consistently observed.

The rooms were suitably arranged with child-sized furniture and clearly defined areas of interest. Each area was well resourced to support children's learning and play. Cosy areas with soft furnishings were available, allowing children to rest or take time away as needed. Outdoor play was incorporated into the daily routine, and children observed going outdoors were appropriately dressed for the weather conditions.

Staff described how they record information about each child's day using an online application detailing information on food, sleep, nappy changes and activities. Parents were observed in the service during drop off and collection times and staff shared information about the children with their parents at these times to support continuity of care between home and the service.

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

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General Safety:

- The entrance doors to the service were adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons from entering and to ensure children could not exit unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of children's reach.
- Storage facilities and the kitchen were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and single use paper towels were available to support effective hand hygiene practices. Staff supervised children washing their hands appropriately after messy play, using the toilet and prior to eating.
- Pedal operated bins were in use in the care rooms and sanitary areas to support the safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Administration of medication records were available for review and contained details of the medication given, including parental consent, the signatures of the staff member who administered the medication, and the staff member who was present as a witness. When spoken to staff were able to describe the procedures to take to ensure medication is given safely if required.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff demonstrated they were familiar with the safe sleep guidelines they recorded physical checks on sleeping children every ten minutes. A sleep log was available for review, detailing the room temperature, breathing pattern, colour and position of the child.

Fire Safety:

- Staff when spoken to were able to detail the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire.
- The designated fire escape routes were clearly marked and free from obstruction on the days of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

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1. In the Apple drops room nails were protruding from the wall at children's level posing a potential injury risk if a child ran into them.
2. In the Apple drops sanitary area the toilet seat was loose on its mount posing a potential injury risk.

Safe Sleep:

3. In the Jellytots room three children under 2 years of age were placed to sleep on stackable beds rather than in a standard cot or floor bed as per safe sleep guidance for children under 2 years.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The nail was removed from the wall. Daily hazard checklists have been updated to include checking surfaces are smooth and free of hazards.
2. The toilet seat in Jellytots has been replaced. Daily hazards checklists include that toilets and sinks are in

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1.,2. Photographic evidence.

Safe Sleep:

3. Approved floor beds are now in use for any child under 2 in the Jellytots room. Team retrained on Sleep Policy for under 2's.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of training and list staff who completed it. Copy daily hazards checklist.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider are satisfactory and deemed to meet the Regulatory requirement.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

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(d) The registered provider did not ensure the service was adequately cleaned, maintained and repaired as required as detailed below.

1. In the Butterflies and Jellytots room inspectors observed that the base of the ball pool had not been cleaned in accordance with the service's cleaning policy. Visible dust, debris, and dirt were present. Staff advised that the ball pool is cleaned on a weekly basis; however, the cleaning policy requires daily cleaning. This practice is not consistent with the service's stated procedures and presents a potential infection control risk.
2. In the sanitary area of the Butterflies, Appledrops and Rascals rooms the laminate surface on the cupboards was peeling off, creating areas that could not be cleaned effectively and therefore posed a potential infection control risk.
3. In the Appledrops room the loft playhouse and was not maintained as required paint was chipped off the banister and ladder.
4. The Rascals room was not cleaned and maintained as required as evidenced by.
 - In the sanitary area there was a build-up of dirt and debris under the nappy changing mat. There was evidence of grime around the taps in handwash basins used by the children. The walls, skirting boards, the lid of the pedal bin and doors were heavily stained with visible dirt. In the corners of the floor in the nappy changing room there was a heavy layer of dust visible and tissues discarded on the floor.
 - There was a sticky residue from tape observed on the window sill.
 - The door to the kitchenette and nappy room were chipped and heavily stained with dirt and food residue. There was a build-up of dust on top of the skirting board.
 - There was a build-up of dust, dirt and debris and debris behind furniture and equipment around the care room.
 - Some of the children's chairs were heavily stained and discoloured.
4. In the Jellytots room the partition at the edge of the changing area and the area around handwash sink was chipped and could not be cleaned effectively.
5. In the sanitary area used by the Jellytots room the hand wash basin was found to be clogged and not draining properly.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Ball pool was emptied, hoovered and cleaned. Ball pool will be emptied and hoovered and wiped out every second day.

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2. Prior to the inspection it had been agreed that the Sanitary areas in Butterflies, Appledrops and Rascals are to be replaced this year. We are awaiting on contractor dates. Sanitary areas will be maintained moving forward.
3. The loft playhouse has been repainted.
4. Rascals room and sanitary area was cleaned on the evening of the inspection, and a professional deep clean of the room and sanitary area was done in the following days to include walls, skirtings, window sill, doors and floors. Bins were replaced. New chairs have been ordered. Cleaning checklists to be adhered to. Team retrained on this. Daily checks by management will be completed according to the Manager daily checklist.
5. Sink professionally unclogged. Drains annually maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic and written evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider are satisfactory and deemed to meet the Regulatory requirement.