

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR079
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Park Academy Beacon Court
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 7-9 Beacon Court, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 V963
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise Barrett
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	115	PM	117
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Early Years Inspectorate-Tusla Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill, Jackie Mayock and Geraldine Kavanagh
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This large private childcare facility 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 to 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 south 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. Three small enclosed outdoor spaces were accessible from care rooms on the ground floor and a larger space was also provided which children attending care rooms on the first and second floors access.

### Staffing

There were thirty-nine adults employed including the management team who were not assigned to care rooms but were available to provide assistance when required. Ancillary staff were employed for cooking duties and a student was present on a work placement. 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.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 16 (k)- Record in relation to pre-school service.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following care rooms; Buds, Bunnies, Butterflies, Jelly tots, Rascals, Apple drops and Owls and did not include the Smarties room.

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, regional manager, 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*

(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), (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. At all times either the designated person in charge or deputy were available on the premises.

(2)

The files of 40 adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included one student who was present on inspection and thirty-one adults who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 09 May 2023. The full file was reviewed only for new staff and the student. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff employed in the service.

(a)(b) Of the sixty-four references that were required, forty-six were available from a past employer and eighteen were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the forty adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required for twenty-nine adults and was available for these staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that all new adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

### 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 one hundred and fifteen children attending the service being supervised by twenty eight adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

## 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.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(k) An accident and incident report was not completed for a child who was observed to fall in the outdoor area.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The accident form was completed by the end of the day of the inspection and signed by management and parent of child. Team re-trained on the importance of completing accident forms and informing the manager of an accident in a timely manner.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of completed accident and incident form.

#### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the corrective and preventive actions. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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) Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Young children were given the opportunity to self-feed appropriate to their age and stage of development and older children were observed serving themselves food. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered when children were eating. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with children throughout the inspection. In the Buds and Bunnies room staff were observed to be very kind and nurturing to young infants who were settling. They spoke in gentle tones and soothed them in their arms. The staff supported the children to manage their personal care. They provided the children with bibs to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. The children's nappies were changed routinely and in between when required. Staff were observed to use these opportunities to interact attentively with infants and young children.

The children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. Staff told the inspector that they provide for the children to sleep outside of these times if they show signs of tiredness. The children were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers to those who used them. The staff reported an app is used to communicate with parents in relation to the individual children's care. This included information relating to diet, sleep, and nappy-changes. 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 were observed sharing information about the children with their parents at these times.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. In the Jelly tots room, the transition from mealtime to sleep was not adequately managed by staff. Three staff were observed to set up beds for sleep while children were eating their lunch. Only one staff member remained with the children eating. Ten children were at one table self-feeding. During this time some children started

swapping food, a child was coughing food into a bowl and another was eating food from the table. This was witnessed by staff and no support was offered to the children.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

1. Team have been retrained on the routine of only one person putting out beds and cots and two people sitting with the children at all mealtimes.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of healthy eating policy for service and staff meeting notes.

### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the corrective and preventive actions. The Regulatory requirement has been met. Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

## 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.
- Medicines, and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- There were no trailing flexes visible and blind cords were secured.

##### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.

- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly or as 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.
- A sample of medication record forms were reviewed. All forms were completed correctly.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- Temperatures of sleep rooms were maintained at the correct temperature for sleep.

### Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area at 10:30am twenty-three children were present. Seven of the children were from the Rascals room and sixteen children were from the Jelly tots room. Children's movement was restricted as the outdoor space chosen was not adequate to accommodate all children present. Due to overcrowding space was limited and the following incidents were observed:
  - One child fell into a plastic box
  - An altercation between two other children occurred over a toy.

### Infection Control:

2. Nappy changing practices observed in in the Rascals room were inconsistent and at variance with the policy in place in the service. Used gloves were not removed after nappy changing posing a potential infection control risk.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

1. The Team were retrained on the garden routine which has specific garden times for each room to prevent overcrowding in the garden. The garden routine is on display in all rooms and at the garden entrance.

**Infection Control:**

- The team were retrained on the correct order of the nappy changing procedure. Steps on Procedure have been made clearer, to prevent any confusion with the order of the steps.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Copy garden timetable and record staff meeting.

**Infection Control:**

Copy nappy changing policy and staff meeting.

**Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventative actions as stated by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance.

Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

**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.*

**Compliance Information**

- The registered provider ensured staff were trained in first aid for children and at all times immediately available to children attending the pre-school.

## 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.

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 03 January 2025.
  - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarm was available. The maintenance record for the fire fighting equipment was dated 11 June 2024 and the maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated the 7 June 2024.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.