

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR079		
Name of Service:	The Park Academy Beacon Court		
Address of Service:	Unit 7-9 Beacon Court, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D18 V963		
Name of Registered Provider:	Louise Barrett		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	09/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	105	PM 98
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow		
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond / Helen Bourke		
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	N/A		

Description of service

This large private childcare facility is one of eight services operated by the registered provider; this service was established in 2001. Full day care and part-time care is provided for children ranging in age from six months to five and a half years. 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. On the day of inspection care 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. A toilet has been added to the outdoor area since the last inspection.

Staffing

There were thirty-four adults employed including the management team who were not assigned to care rooms but were available to provide assistance when required; ancillary staff were also employed for cooking duties. The registered provider does not work in the service. All adults employed to work with 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 to be equivalent.

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 and health, welfare and development of child. 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 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

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 service managers, area manager and staff members who facilitated the inspection 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) There were designated people in charge and named people to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated people in charge were on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place.

Twenty-one adults had been recruited since the last inspection on the 31 May 2022 and the staff files for adults were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for adults employed in the service since the last inspection.
 - (b) References from other sources were available for adults as appropriate.
 - (c) Garda vetting was available for all adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for adults for whom it was required.
- (4) All adults had attained major awards 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 and 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 the children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were twenty-seven adults working directly with one hundred and five children in the morning and twenty-five adults working with ninety-eight children in the afternoon. The managers were also available to assist in the rooms when required.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) Registration records were reviewed for twenty-three children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) The management team confirmed that the date on which a child ceases to attend the service is recorded on a mobile application system.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.

- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
- (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

(4) The management team were aware that the records referred to above must be retained for a period of two years after a child leaves the service.

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) There was documentation and a mobile application system to support the accurate recording of children's attendance on attendance registers.
 - (i) A staff roster was available which also demonstrated how staff breaks would be covered.
 - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that:
 - signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication
 - administration of medication should be witnessed
 - parents are informed when medication has been administered
 - (k) Details of accidents, injuries and incidents involving pre-school children were recorded and parents informed.

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) The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place.

Nutritious and varied food was offered to children at regular intervals throughout the day and extra portions were readily available. Food choices were appropriate for children’s individual dietary and cultural needs. Mealtimes were relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children as adults engaged with them helping when required. Young children were encouraged to feed themselves appropriate to their age and stage of development and were helped when needed.

Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required. Care practices by adults reflected families’ personal preferences and support with personal care. For example, some children had barrier creams applied after nappy changing. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

Care was given to children’s appearance as bibs were put on younger children before eating and their hands and faces were cleaned afterwards.

Sleep routines were reflective of children’s individual needs which promoted good habits around sleep. Safe sleep practices were adhered to, and children had heavy clothing and shoes removed before being put down to sleep and rest.

Children had regular access to outdoor play and wore appropriate clothing when outside.

Adults used effective information sharing processes such as daily information sheets and a mobile application messaging system which promoted consistency and continuity of care for children attending the service.

Appropriate interactions between adults and children were observed during the inspection.