

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS134
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Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Parkwest
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Address of Service:	Unit 9 Park West Retail Plaza, Park West Business Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D12 T680
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Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	17/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	64	PM	58
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Brunel Building, Hueston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Mayock and O. Quill
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

Giraffe Childcare Parkwest is a full day care service provided by Giraffe Childcare Limited which provides 25 childcare services. The service provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care and caters for children from 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:30 to 18:30, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a purposely adapted premises in Park West business park in Dublin 12. There are seven care rooms in the service. The Baringo and Safari rooms cater for children aged 1 year. The Botswana room caters for children aged 1 to 2 years. The Namibia and Zambia rooms cater for children aged 2 to 3 years. The Kenya room caters for children aged 3 to 4 years and the Madagascar room caters from children aged 3 to 5 years. There is one dedicated cot room and a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The service currently employs 23 staff including a manager. There were 16 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection including 2 managers and 3 staff members that arrived from other services shortly after the inspectors arrived at the service. The service also employs a chef and a housekeeper. The area manager arrived during the morning of the inspection. The registered provider does not work directly in the service and was not present on the day 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment,
- 11 (1)(2) Staffing levels,
- 19 (1)(b) Health welfare and development of child,
- 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
- 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) First Aid,
- 26 (1)(a)(b) Fire safety.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Safari, Baringo, Botswana, Zambia and Namibia rooms. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 registered provider, person in charge, 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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
 - (c) There was evidence of a clear management structure which outlined the roles of authority within the service.
- (2) Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that 6 adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 6 June 2024. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and an additional

3 adults who arrived at the service for support on the day of inspection. These documents met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the 18 written validated references that were required, thirteen were available from a past employer and five were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the 9 staff members. 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 8 staff members 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 the 9 staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. One of these staff members held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 64 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by 16 adults during the inspection.

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)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed throughout the inspection.

The routine of the service was child led, children were visibly content and happy in their play-based activities throughout the inspection. Children moved freely around the rooms throughout the day engaged in a wide range of activities including imaginative play, tabletop, arts and crafts and construction activities. Staff supported children in their play, sitting with them and involving themselves when invited by a child or by using prompts to extend play and learning. Staff were responsive to children's individual needs and communicated well with the children, using kind tones and gentle language during interactions. Transitions were handled well and children were aware of the routine.

Staff sat with children and engaged in conversation while they ate. Staff encouraged children to feed themselves independently and assisted where needed. Children were encouraged to be independent in using the toilet, cleaning up after activities. Minor disputes between children were managed in a calm manner and staff were observed to comfort children if they became upset. Staff demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of children's individual care needs during discussions with the inspector. Sleep time was observed to be a calm and relaxed environment with staff assisting children to sleep.

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 the service and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- 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.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping on low beds.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes, at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure and poses a risk of cross contamination as follows;
 - In two rooms the staff members did not wipe down the changing mat after they had finished changing the child's nappy.
 - In two care rooms children's hands were not cleaned effectively following the nappy changes.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

Infection control:

1. The staff team have all received further nappy changing training. Nappy changing will be reviewed weekly to ensure all the appropriate steps are followed. Additional nappy changing posters have been placed in the changing areas within the two care rooms.
2. The hand washing procedure was refreshed within the centre and all staff were spoken to about the importance of hand washing on the staff training night 20 February 2025.
3. Management will continue to support nappy changing in the two rooms. Skills demonstrations and signage has been placed in the changing rooms to support staff during nappy changing as a prompt

reminder to follow cleaning procedures. Management will monitor this practice and ensure it is in line with best practice.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Written evidence, including staff training cards, was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
2. Written evidence, including signed posters was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the 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.

(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)
A person trained in first aid responder was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of the inspection.

(2)
(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location within the service.
(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service 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) 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 14th January 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms were dated 5th December 2024.