

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DS147

Name of Service: Parkside Childcare

Address of Service: 20a Fonthill Abbey, Ballyboden Rd, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.

Eircode: D14 XA99

Name of Registered Provider: Emma Buckley

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 10/03/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	144	PM	127
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C Kerrigan, L. Jameson and L.A Webster
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

Parkside Childcare is a full day care service in located in Dublin 14, it is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 146 children aged from 0-6 years. The service operates from 7:30am to 6:30pm, Monday to Friday, and provides an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sessional service from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The service is located in a converted detached residential premises with separate buildings onsite. There is a dedicated sleep room which is located on the ground floor and sanitary facilities are available in all buildings. The service has a kitchen in which to prepare food for the children. There are twelve care rooms in operation: the Wobbler 1A, Wobbler 1B, Wobbler 2 and Wobbler 3, Toddler 1, Toddler 2 & Toddler 3, Preschool 1A, Preschool 1B Preschool 1C, and Preschool 2A & Preschool 2B. There are two enclosed outdoor areas at the rear of the property.

Staffing

From review of rosters and through conversation with the person in charge, there are fifty-three staff employed in the service, to include the person in charge, the deputy person in charge, forty-six childcare staff, one administration staff, three kitchen staff and one maintenance worker. The registered provider works in a management capacity and does not work directly with the children. Offsite there is a supporting management team to include a quality manager and HR manager.

On the day of inspection there were thirty-five staff present, to include the person in charge, the deputy person in charge, twenty-eight childcare workers, one administration staff, three kitchen staff and a maintenance worker.

The registered provider and co-director of the company arrived during the inspection, along with the HR manager. A student was also 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, safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under.

- Regulation 15 (1)(3)(c) Record of pre-school Children,
- Regulation 16(1) (j) Record in relation to a Pre-School Service.
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of the Child.
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of Child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Wobbler 1A, Toddler 2, Preschool 1C and Preschool 2A.

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
- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
 - (b) A review of the roster showed that a named person in charge or the deputy is rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.

- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the registered provider showed that eighteen new staff have commenced employment in the service since the last inspection held on the 15 April 2024. The files of all eighteen staff were reviewed along with the files of the registered provider, company director and student who were also present on the day of inspection. The garda vetting disclosures of five existing staff members whose Garda Vetting was required to be renewed since the last inspection held on the 15 April 2024.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were thirty-seven written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that there were five written and validated references were available from a source other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (c) The registered provider ensured that garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults who in their role have access to the children. 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 available for the sixteen adults who had resided in a country other than Ireland for a period longer than six consecutive months.
- (3) All references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to the nineteen adults being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The eighteen adults who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.
- (7) (a) Documentary evidence and conversations with staff showed that the registered provider had provided new staff members with appropriate information regarding the service policies and procedures in the with the service supervision and appraisal policy. New staff require an appropriate induction period in order to safeguard the wellbeing of children in the service.

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) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. This was further evidenced in the roster.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service. This was also evidenced in the roster.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a written record was kept for each children attending the pre-school service. The written records of twenty children were reviewed and found to be fully completed, they contained the following information.

- (a) The registered provider ensured that name and date of birth was completed in each child's record.
- (b) The registered provider ensured that the date on which a child first attended the service was recorded.
- (d) The registered provider ensured that the name, address and telephone number of the parent or guardian along with an emergency contact person for whom could also be contacted was recorded in the child's file.
- (e) The registered provider ensured that an authorised person for the collection of each child was recorded.
- (f) The registered provider ensured the details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child relevant to their care within the service was recorded.
- (g) The registered provider ensured the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner was recorded.

- (h) The registered provider ensured that a record of vaccinations was kept.
- (i) The registered provider ensured that written consent was present for children needing appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency.
- (3) (c) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for inspection and on the premises by the Inspector.

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:

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) (j) A sample of nineteen medication administration records were reviewed and were found to be completed fully with all the necessary details included.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for inspection and on the premises by the Inspector.

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

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The registered provider ensured the child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service, for example:

Basic Needs:

- Children were provided with regular meals and snacks, food served was reflected in the service menu. This included a hot meal prepared and cooked onsite. On the morning of the inspection children in the care rooms were served a snack of fruit and a drink of water, with alternative options of being given if needed. Fish fingers, vegetables and mashed potatoes were given for lunch with an alternative available for children who did not eat the meal offered. The transition to mealtime was observed to be a timely experience for the children, at a pace suited to their needs.
- Water was available to the children as they needed in each care room sampled.
- Nappy changing was not observed on the day however through conversation with staff nappy changing was completed on a scheduled basis and as needed. A number of children in the Preschool 2A room were supported with their toilet training journey with unrestricted access to the toilet observed, positive praise was given to each child's efforts, with cues and prompts given in a child centred manner.
- There was a rest area available in the care rooms if the children needed to engage in more restful activities.
- Children were provided with appropriate clothing for outdoor play, independence with self-care skills were promoted with children being encouraged to put on hats and coats for outdoors themselves. This facilitates comfort in play experiences and promotes independence.

Supporting Relationships:

- A key worker system was in place in the service and key groups are displayed within the classrooms. A key worker system allows staff to develop in depth knowledge about the children in their group and fosters nurturing relationships helping children to feel confident.

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a responsive, warm and respectful manner. For example, a young child was observed to be upset whilst settling into the service, staff were observed to physically comforted them, through hugs and soothing tones, changing planned activities to best suit the needs of this child. Staff were empathetic in their response, working within the service settling in policy, which is child centred, contacting the parents when needed.
- Staff were observed to speak to each other in respectful and warm manner.
- Staff completed a daily log for each child, outlining meals, toileting and activities, this log is made available to parents, with daily conversations between families and staff occurring at pick up and drop off times. Ensuring families are connected to the service and their child's day.

Physical and material environment:

- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and appropriate for children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- There was a range of equipment available including mark making, a home corner with associated props to facilitate imaginative play experiences, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, cars and tracks for transporting and books to facilitate language and early literacy development. The range of materials and toys available ensured children were provided with a range of experiences.
- Images of the children and their families were displayed throughout the room which promoted a sense of identity and belonging.
- The children had access to the outdoor play environment throughout the day. This was scheduled but also available to children if and when they needed. This area had absorbent flooring, slides, climbing frames, wobble boards, giving an array of options to develop gross motor skills. It was observed that the service also brought tables and chairs into the outdoor space providing an area for children to partake in quieter tabletop activities if they chose.

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 main entrance to the service was secure upon the inspector's unannounced arrival at the service. Access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member allowed access, therefore preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons, this also prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were placed on high shelving away from children's reach.
- The outdoor area was fully secured and enclosed with a high wall, with the gate secured by a high bolt lock system.

Infection Control:

- The premises were clean and well maintained throughout the areas sampled. Documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed.
- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach for children reducing the risk of cross contamination.
- Pedal bins were in use throughout the service ensuring appropriate disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Detailed health care plans were available in each care room outlining the steps to be taken in the event of a medical emergency, staff across the service were able to demonstrate their knowledge on the steps to be taken in the event of an emergency. Care Plans were available to staff throughout the service. This was also reflected in the service policy on medication administration. Ensuring staff across the service were familiar with children requiring prompt medical attention.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff maintained physical checks of sleeping children every 10 minutes, records outlined position, colour and breathing.
- An ambient temperature between 18-22° was maintained in rooms where children over 1 year were sleeping.
- There were sufficient amounts of cots and low- level beds to meet the sleep needs of the children within the service.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were knowledgeable of the fire evacuation plan which included the route to take and location of the assembly point.
- Fire drills were undertaken monthly, therefore ensuring that staff and children are familiar with the evacuation process.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. In Wobbler 1B it was observed that individual cloths were used to wash children's hands upon return from the outdoor area and after dinner. This is not an effective handwashing technique and could potentially expose children to harmful bacteria.

Administration of Medication:

2. Emergency medication was not easily accessible to staff in the event of a medical emergency as it was held in the office which was located away from the care rooms. It is acknowledged that all staff were clear on the administration of medication however the distance to accessing emergency medication may delay the administration of emergency treatment.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The registered provider stated that immediately after feedback hot running water with soap is now used for all handwashing activities. A discussion was held with the care room lead and all teaching staff in Wobbler 1B to ensure that handwashing is carried out at all transitions, all teachers have signed updated policy and procedures.

Administration of Medication:

2. The registered provider has stated that any child with prescribed emergency medication now has a clear sealed bag, with their picture, name, date, parental consent with the administration procedure written in clear bullet points. The bag will be kept in the classroom and brought with the child when going outdoors. The terms and conditions of the service state parents must inform management, and a care plan is formed once any illness that requires emergency medication is required, this medication will be stored and accessible as outlined above.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Documentation submitted to support actions.

Administration of Medication:

2. The registered provider has provided both picture and documentary evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances under Regulation 23.