

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY162				
Name of Service:	Parkmore Day Nursery				
Address of Service:	1 St. Assam's Road East, Raheny, Dublin 5				
Eircode:	D05 V525				
Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona Ryan				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	30/07/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>23</td> <td>PM</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </table>	AM	23	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 7th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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.

Description of service

Parkmore Day Nursery is a full day care service located in a residential area in Dublin 5. The service operates from a purpose-built building adjacent to the registered providers home and is open from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday. The service offers care and education to children aged 1-5 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The service is comprised of three care rooms; Wobbler room, Toddler room and Montessori room, an office, a kitchen, sanitary facilities, and a staff room. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs eight staff including the person in charge and seven childcare staff. There were seven staff present on the day of inspection. The registered provider works in the service in a supernumerary position on a part-time basis and was present during the 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.

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 inspector wishes 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when required.
 - (b) The roster showed that a designated person in charge was rostered to be on the premises during the opening hours of the service.
 - (c) The service had a management structure which detailed clear roles and responsibilities.
- (2) A review of the roster and discussion with management showed that there are currently nine adults employed in the service including the registered provider. The files of all staff members were reviewed as part of the inspection.
- (a) (b) Eighteen written and verified references were available for nine staff members currently employed in the service.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eight staff and the registered provider. The service has adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) There was no evidence to suggest any staff member required police vetting.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that nine staff members employed in the service held 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.

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) There were 23 preschool children being cared for by five adults on the day of inspection. The person in charge and another staff member were available to cover breaks and assist in the care rooms as required.

(2) Ratios were maintained during the inspection. The following was observed:

- In the Wobbler room three children aged 12-14 months were being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In the Toddler room eight children aged 1.5-2.5years were being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Montessori room twelve children aged 2.5-5years were being cared for by 2 staff members.

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:

(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;

(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;

(c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;

(d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;

(e) the facilities available;

(f) the opening hours and fees;

(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

- (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) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee was maintained in the staff files.
 - (b) (c)(d)(e)(f) The details required under (b) to (f) were available in the statement of purpose and function.
 - (g) Twenty policies, procedures and statements which the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10 were available for review.
 - (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child is maintained on a software application and updated in a timely manner.
 - (i) A staff roster was available for review.
 - (j) A sample of seventeen medication administration records were reviewed and were complete in full with all necessary details.
 - (k) A sample of twenty accident and incident records were reviewed and were complete in full with all necessary details.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured there was adequate facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors during the day. The following was observed;

- A range of play equipment was provided in all care rooms at a level accessible to the children which allowed for spontaneous play experiences.
- A range of books which were maintained in good condition were readily available to the children in each room supporting the development of pre-reading skills.
- Materials were grouped thematically to encourage play and support decision making.
- The registered provider ensured a safe and suitable outdoor area was available onsite for children to use during the day.

(b) The registered provider ensured adequate and suitable facilities for sleep and rest were available to all children who required them. For example;

- Cosy areas which consisted of large soft floor mats and cushions were available in each care room for children to rest and take a break from activities as needed throughout the day.
- An adequate number of cots, low-level beds and associated bedlinen were available for children who required sleep during the day.

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 service entrance was secured throughout the day and a second internal door provided a containment area which prevented unknown persons entering the premises.
- The internal door was fitted with a push button release at adult height prevented children leaving the service unsupervised.
- The nappy changing unit was sturdy and secure for use.
- Blind cords where present were secured out of reach of the children
- A TV which was present in one care room was mounted securely.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Pedal operated bins were available for disposal of contaminated items.
- Soft furnishings were well maintained and laundered weekly or as needed.
- Sandpits were fitted with suitable covers to prevent access by animals when not in use.
- Handwashing was observed to be completed frequently throughout the day for example before meals and following nappy changing.

Administration of Medication:

- A detailed health care plan was available for a child who required emergency medication and staff were aware of the plan and actions required. The child's medication was stored out of reach in a clearly defined area and was easily located during the inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in rooms where children over 1 year old were sleeping.
- Staff were observed to physically check sleeping children at 10 minutes intervals and a record of these was maintained on a software application.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed throughout the service and exits were unobstructed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Staff were observed to greet children at the door of the service and their attendance was promptly recorded.

(3)

(a) The service entrance was adequately secured, and staff were observed to greet visitors at the door to allow access.

(b) A visitor book was available and provided to the inspector to sign on arrival to the service.