

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY259

Name of Service: Parklands Nursery & Montessori School

Address of Service: 14/15 Herbert Place, Dublin 2

Eircode: D02 TN29

Name of Registered Provider: Michele Maguire

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 01/07/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	26
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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: L Jameson

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

Parklands Nursery & Montessori School is located in Dublin City centre and operates from a converted Georgian building. The service provides full day care to a maximum of 39 children aged 0 – 6 years from 08:00 – 6:00pm, Monday to Friday. The service comprises of four care rooms in the main building, namely the Baby room, the Toddler room, the Top room and the Montessori room. A fifth care room is located to the rear of the premises called the Mews and facilitates extra learning and play opportunities for the children. On the day of inspection, children from the Montessori room were observed to spend the morning in the Mews room. The service has three separate outdoor play areas, two at the front of the property and one to the rear.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service in a supernumerary capacity and employs twelve staff members, including the person in charge, the deputy person in charge, eight early years practitioners, a chef and a cleaner. On the day of the inspection, the person in charge, the deputy person in charge, seven early years practitioners and the chef were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. The registered provider arrived shortly after and remained in the service for the duration of 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.*

(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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was rostered to be present all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) The full staff files of ten adults employed to work in the service since the last inspection were reviewed along with the Garda vetting of two staff which had expired since the last inspection:
- (a) Eighteen written and verified references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Two written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the twelve adults employed in the service. 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 ten adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to ten adults before employment commenced.

- (4) Evidence was available to show that the nine adults who worked directly with the children 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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children on the day of inspection. Eight staff members were caring for twenty-six children in both the morning and the afternoon.
- (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider and person in charge were available in a supernumerary position to provide cover in rooms as needed.

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 following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:
- Staff members were observed to use kind, soft tones when interacting with the children, supporting the children's achievements with recognition, praise and encouragement. Any minor disagreements that occurred between the children were dealt with in a positive and calm way and the children were supported to resolve any conflict that arose.
 - The children were supported to follow their own interests and decision making was encouraged by staff members who were observed to actively supervise and guide the children throughout the day.
 - The children were free to choose activities and staff members provided alternative activities for children to participate in, for example, on the day of inspection, the children in the Montessori room were observed to play a group activity with their teachers in the outdoor play area. Some children did not want to continue and so, they went to look for spiders with two of their caregivers. This promotes children's interests and right to choose.
 - Mealtimes were observed to be sociable and pleasant, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children. Water stations were set up in the care rooms, allowing the children to access a drink when they wanted. Additional portions of food were also available to the children.
 - During sleep time, the blinds were drawn and soft music played in the background, creating a relaxing environment for sleeping children.
 - Appropriate and respectful nappy changing procedures were observed on the day of inspection. The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently with discreet supervision provided by staff members. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently when required.

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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. A buzzer system was in place which was managed and monitored by staff members.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- Flexes and cords were secured safely out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

- The care rooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day, before eating and after activities and toileting.
- The service and outdoor play area were observed to be clean and maintained, supported by up-to-date cleaning records.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the care rooms and sanitary areas to ensure the hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.

Administration of Medication:

- Antifebrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were observed to physically check and record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every 10 minutes.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over one years old and between 16-20°C for children under one years old in the care rooms.
- Cellular blankets were used.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.
- Fire evacuation routes were displayed throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The following was observed on the day of inspection which reduced effective cleaning and increased the risk of cross contamination:

1. Shelving units in the Top room and Montessori room along with a radiator cover in the Top room were observed to be chipped with worn surfaces in places which exposed the internal wood.
2. Bathroom dividers in the Montessori sanitary accommodation were worn which exposed the internal wood.
3. The silicone around the sink unit in the Montessori sanitary accommodation was observed to be worn in places.

Administration of Medication:

4. Three children in the Baby room were observed to receive antifebrile medication on the day of the inspection. Although the administration of medication was recorded to include all other relevant details, there was no space for a parent's signature to acknowledge medication being administered to their child. This increased the potential risk of overdose.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Management have replaced the worn shelving units and radiator cover. Management hope to install protective covers to prevent recurrence of this issue.
2. The bathroom dividers in Montessori sanitary accommodation have been fixed and repainted. Management have reminded staff members to be mindful of this when cleaning the floors.
3. Management have replaced the silicone around the sink. Management will monitor the area and replace as needed.

Administration of Medication:

4. Management have updated the antifebrile medication form, adding a space for parents' signature. Management have reminded all staff that parents must sign the medication administration form at the end of the day when medication has been given.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
2. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
3. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Administration of Medication:

4. Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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 who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the FAR training records maintained for three staff members and their scheduled attendance in the service's staff roster. In addition, two staff members held in-date Paediatric First Aid training.

- (2)
- (a) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous location on the premises.
 - (b) First aid boxes were available for the children in attendance in the event of an emergency.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the children were adequately supervised by staff members at all times on the day of inspection.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and*
- (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*

Compliance Information

(1) There was a complaints policy maintained which outlined the following:

- (a) The procedures to be followed when making a complaint.
- (b) The way complaints would be dealt with.
- (c) The procedures for keeping the complainant informed on how the complaint is being dealt with.

(2)

- (a) The registered provider ensured that, in the event of a complaint being made in respect of the service, a protocol was in place to record and retain any such information. The registered provider confirmed that the service had not received any complaints.
- (b) The service had documentary evidence to demonstrate that if a complaint was received, it was dealt with according to the service complaints policy.