

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL243
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Name of Service:	Parkview Pre School
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Address of Service:	St.Brigids Community Centre, Blanchardstown Village, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Erica Duffy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>14</td> <td>PM</td> <td>No.</td> </tr> </table>	AM	14	PM	No.
AM	14	PM	No.		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson
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.
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Description of service

Parkview Preschool is a sessional preschool service located in Dublin 15 and is registered to provide sessional care to a maximum of twenty-two children aged 2 to 5 years Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm. The service operates from a room in a Community Centre, where there is access to shared sanitary accommodation. Parkview Preschool is one of three services operated by the registered provider.

Staffing

There are currently three staff employed by the service including the person in charge and two childcare staff who work directly with the children. Present on the day of the inspection was the person in charge, and a relief staff member from one of the other services operated by the registered provider. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4); 11(1)(3); 19(1)(a), 23 and 25.

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 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present during the inspection.

The files of four staff were reviewed, including a relief worker from another service who was providing cover on the day of the inspection. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(2)

(a) Five validated written references were available from recent past employers.

(b) Three validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Completed Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the four staff members.

(d) Three adults who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult had international police vetting from that state available for inspection.

(3) There was documentary evidence in place that the checks were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) The four staff who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Two staff were allocated to work directly with 14 children who were present.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- Children's beakers with water were stored on top of the fridge and were visible and accessible to them throughout the morning. Snack was provided by parents and the children were observed to independently access their lunchboxes from the fridge and enjoy their snack time experience.

- The children were facilitated to use the toilet independently under adult supervision, and a staff member was observed to encourage privacy by closing the door over, and respectfully asking 'do you need some help'.
- Children had the freedom to move throughout the rooms and choose their own activities, facilitating independence and choice.
- Positive strategies to support behaviour were observed, such as the careful timing of activities and transitions, clear instruction of boundaries, and intervening in a timely manner.

Supporting Relationships:

- The furniture was laid out to encourage children to engage in solitary, small group and large group play, thereby facilitating peer engagement.
- The adults in the service were observed to be responsive to the children cues and interacted with the children in a warm sensitive manner using low tones and a pace suited to the needs of the children.
- Staff discussed how information on the activities in the service was shared with parents via email, where they received updates on what learning was completed the previous month, and what was planned for the coming month.
- Smooth transitions were facilitated through the clear signalling of what was going to happen next. For example, a clean-up song was played as a cue to finish an activity and get ready for snack time. This routine and familiarity with what will happen next provided for comfortable experiences for young children.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for children attending. The toys, equipment and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- An area was available which allowed a child to take a break from activities and rest.
- Toys and equipment were grouped in clearly defined interest areas, which supported children to engage in play experiences in a focused manner. Interest areas included arts and crafts, a home and role play area, library area, sensory play, construction and transporting. These areas were well resourced with props and open-ended materials to extend the play experiences.
- The room was bright and welcoming with images of the children and products of their artwork displayed throughout the room, which facilitated as sense of welcome and belonging.

Programme of Activities:

- Play was the central mode of learning, where the programme was developed through observations of the children's emergent interests, which informed medium and short-term planning. The theme of the month was 'Summer' and activities were planned to build new vocabulary, develop mathematic concepts, and used sensory play experiences while expanding on this theme. For example, the sensory tray had sand for the beach, with shiny paper for the sun.
- Children were observed to enjoy circle time where they were invited to share news of the weekend, sang songs and counted to ten in English, Irish, Urdu and Japanese. These activities supported language development, social skills, self-esteem, celebrated diversity and fostered inclusion.
- Activities were timed to suit the age and stage of children in the setting, and the children were given alternative activities if they did not want to participate. This supported children as active decision makers.
- The children's learning was made visible through documentation which identified follow up activities to support further learning.

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:

- Entry and exit to the service was managed and monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Door locks were in place on the external door and the door to the hallway which were up high out of reach of the children.
- All cleaning agents and sharp equipment were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- A record was maintained of accidents and incidents that occur in the setting.

Infection Control:

- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use hand towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Staff were observed supporting children to hand wash before and after mealtime.
- Childrens lunches were stored in their labelled lunch boxes in a fridge.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The window restrictor was observed to be broken, and the positioning of a foam couch underneath posed a risk that children could climb and access the open window.

Infection Control:

2. The waste disposal system in the sanitary accommodation required repeated hand contact with the disposal unit. This did not support effective infection control.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The window was reported to the management of the building. The whole centre is getting new windows and doors installed before reopening in September.

Preventive Action: Staff will highlight immediately if any maintenance issues so management can risk assess and put measures into place right away to address the issue.

Infection Control:

2. The service have replaced the disposal unit with a foot pedal bin to meet adequate infection control measures.

Preventive Action: Foot pedal bins will be used in all areas throughout the preschool.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

2. No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the room.

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.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 12th May 2023.
- (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. Both the fire extinguishers and the smoke alarms were serviced and maintained on the 3rd March 2023.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the care room.