

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015WW169

Name of Service: The Park Academy Childcare Eden Gate

Address of Service: Eden Gate, Delgany, Co. Wicklow. A63 NY22

Email Address: Louisebarrett@parkchildcare.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Louise Barrett

Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	Change the maximum number of pre-school children attending from 144 to 164. Presently employs 27 staff. This would increase as needed depending on demand and the age profile of the children and length of time that they are availing of the service.
Proposed Number of Children:	164
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	163 children based on available floor space
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 144 to 163

Date of Inspection:	1	8	1	0	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: M. Condon & O Quill
Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Loughlinstown Health Centre,
Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 163 Children
Date of Registration	17 th November 2023

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	The Park Academy Childcare Eden Gate is one a chain of services operated by the registered provider. This service is located in a residential/retail area outside the village of Delgany in County Wicklow. The service is presently registered to provide full day-care, part-time day care and a sessional service to pre-school children who are between 0-6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.00am and 18.30pm. Eight rooms are in use to care for pre-school children.
Premises	The premises is purpose built and has eight pre-school rooms with adjoining sanitary accommodation. The Bunnies, Butterflies and Jellytots rooms are located on the ground floor and have three separate sleep rooms allocated to them. The remainder of the care rooms are located on the first floor. There is also a kitchen, utility room and an office and two staff toilets. A large outdoor area is available located at the front, side and back of the premises. The staff room is located in a garden room in the outdoor area.
Staffing	Presently there are 27 staff employed.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes; Governance, and Safety.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, Area Manager, Person in Charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required. Twenty-seven staff members are employed currently to provide direct care to the children attending. The service will increase the number of staff depending on the uptake of the additional places which will be allowed.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service is currently registered to cater for a maximum of one hundred and forty-four pre-school children. The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the pre-school children in the service. It was stated by the Registered Provider that going forward all children will attend on a Full Daycare basis.

The registered provider will increase her staffing complement depending on the number of children present.

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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

	<p>(1)(a) Play equipment in all rooms was located on open low-level shelving for easy access by pre-school children. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all care rooms for table-top activities.</p> <p>Each care room was equipped with play and work equipment suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending. Areas of interest included imaginative play, dress-up, construction play, a home corner, a transport area, an art area, and Montessori equipment. A range of books were available in the designated rest areas in each room.</p> <p>A cleaning schedule was in place to clean toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors.</p> <p>(1)(b) Three dedicated sleep rooms are available. One is located beside the Bunnies room, one between the Butterflies and Jellytots room and one off the hallway near the Jellytots room. Part of the Bunnies room is sectioned off to be used as a sleep area also. A total of 42 standard cots were available to accommodate the younger children. Sleep mats are available for older children who require sleep. Suitable bed linen is supplied.</p> <p>Soft seating was provided in all rooms to accommodate a child to take a break from activities and rest if required.</p> <p>(3)(a) Children attending the service have access to an outdoor play area. This area is enclosed with high-level fencing which prevents a child from leaving the area and restricts unauthorised access to the play area.</p> <p>The outdoor play area was divided into five distinct areas for use by the children. For the children attending the three rooms in the ground floor the outdoor area could be accessed directly from their care room through patio doors.</p> <p>Age-appropriate play equipment was available in the outdoor areas. Equipment included push/pull toys, sit-in cars, bikes, play kitchen with props, sand play slides and swings.</p> <p>A cleaning schedule was in place to clean toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors.</p>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement Met:

The requirement has been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

The service has a healthy eating policy. The service will provide all of the children's meals and snacks. Drinking water is provided in each care room for the children when thirsty. Crockery and cutlery suitable to the ages of the children in the rooms were provided. A four-week menu plan was available.

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.

Requirement Met:

The requirement has been met.

- The entrance door from street level leading into the building and the entrance door leading directly into the service were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years' service. Admission is enabled using a buzzer intercom system.
- An enclosed area outside the entrance door was available to facilitate the safe hand-over of children at arrival and departure times.
- Play materials and equipment in use were stored low level stable based shelving units which reduced the risk of the furniture from toppling and injuring a child.
- No trailing flexes, cables or electrical items were accessible to the pre-school children. Pedal bins were available for use in the sanitary areas and in the rooms.
- Cleaning agents were inaccessible to the children.
- The service's refuse bins were inaccessible to the children.
- Cleaning schedules and daily risk assessments were in place in each room.
- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available in each room and in the sanitary areas to facilitate adults and children to wash their hands.
- The kitchen and staff room were inaccessible to the pre-school children.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

	<p>Three staff members had a certificate in First Aid Response, one of which expired in November 2024 and two expired in June 2025. It was stated by the Registered Provider that as the numbers of children attending the service increase, the number of staff members qualified in First Aid Response will also increase. All other staff members have a qualification in paediatric First Aid</p> <p>(2)(a) A fully equipped first aid boxes was located on the ground floor and a smaller first aid kit was available in each care room in the service. All first aid boxes were available and stored in a conspicuous position.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A written record is available of the fire drills completed on a monthly basis in the service.</p> <p>(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The fire-fighting equipment and the fire detection system were last serviced in March 2023 and September 2023 respectively.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in all of the care rooms. The fire assembly point is clearly identified and located at the front of the building.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>An insurance quotation was submitted to cover 165 children The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The premises appeared to be adequately maintained.

(b)

The front entrance door at street level leading to the premises and the internal entrance door leading into the service were kept secured at all times during the operational hours of the service.

(c)

Lighting

The premises were adequately lit by means of natural lighting which was supplemented by artificial lighting in all rooms.

Heating

The service had a gas heating system which was thermostatically controlled. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection. An air conditioning system has been recently installed throughout the service.

Ventilation

All rooms had openable windows. Mechanical ventilation and openable windows were available in the sanitary areas which did not have windows.

(d)

The service was in a clean condition. Up to date documented cleaning schedules carried out by staff were on display in the service.

(e)Sanitary Facilities:

The sanitary areas were located off each pre-school room. Facilities in each are listed below:

Downstairs rooms:

Bunnies: 1 nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin was available.

Butterflies: 1 nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin was available.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>Jellytots: 1 nappy changing unit, two toilets and two wash hand basin, one of which was in the care room were available.</p> <p>In addition to these two nappy-changing trollies were available in the service which could be used in any of the sanitary areas if required.</p> <p>Upstairs rooms: <u>Appledrops</u> and Rascals sanitary areas shared between the two rooms: 2 toilets, 3 nappy change units and 2 wash hand basins.</p> <p><u>Smarties</u>: 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins off Smarties room. <u>Bumblebees</u>: Two toilets and two wash hand basins were available. <u>The Owls</u>: Two toilets and two wash hand basins were available.</p> <p>Separately for Adult use: 3 toilets with wash hand basins was available for staff only.</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available in all sanitary areas and at the wash hand basins located within the care rooms. Suitable lidded bins were provided in all sanitary areas.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:	<p>(1) The service has adequate clear floor space to accommodate 163 preschool children on a full day care basis. The Registered Provider agreed to change the proposed number from 164 to 163.</p> <p>(2) It is proposed and confirmed by the Registered Provider that all children attending the creche will attend on a full day care basis.</p> <p>The clear floor space in the Bunnies room measured 39.5 square metres. This room has sufficient space to cater for the care needs of a maximum of 11 babies aged 0-1 years.</p> <p>The clear floor space in the Butterflies room measured 48.23 square metres. There is sufficient space to cater for the care needs of a maximum of 17 babies aged from 1-2 years who will attend on full day care basis.</p>
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The clear floor space in the Jellytots room measured 59.1 square metres. This room has sufficient space to cater for the care needs of a maximum of 21 children aged 1-2 years attending for full day care.

The clear floor space in the Rascals room measured 56.4 square metres. There is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of a maximum of 24 children aged 2-3 years.

The clear floor space in the Appledrops room measured 54.4 square metres. There is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of a maximum of 23 children aged 2-3 years.

The clear floor space in the Smarties room measured 52.5 square metres. There is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of a maximum of 23 children aged 3-4 years.

The clear floor space in the Bumblebees room measured 50.8 square metres. There is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of 22 children aged 3-4 years attending full day care basis.

The clear floor space in the Owls room measured 49.9 square metres. There is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of 22 children aged 3-4 years attending full day care basis.

In summary there is adequate space for the proposed number of 163 pre-school children to attend on a full day care basis.