

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015WW231

**Name of Service:** The Park Academy Ltd Nature Kindergarten

**Address of Service:** Kilruddery Estate,  
Southern Cross Road,  
Bray,  
Co. Wicklow.

**Email Address:** louisebarrett@parkchildcare.ie

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mary McGibney

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

**Proposed change:** To increase child numbers

**Proposed Number of Children:** 35

**Registered change:** Increase in number of children from 24 to 35

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	2	0	3	2	0	2	1
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Inspection undertaken by:** Helen Bourke

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** First Floor, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park,  
Southern Cross Road,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

### Rationale for Inspection :

#### Proposed Change of Circumstance

This full day care service is currently registered to accommodate 24 pre-school children and is seeking to increase that number to accommodate 35 pre-school children

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care service for 35 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	This full day care is a privately owned service which is registered to provide care to pre-school children from 2 years to 6 years of age. The service provides part time and full day care services from 7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
<b>Premises</b>	The Nature Kindergarten is based in a large forested area on the Kilruddery Estate, located in Bray Co. Wicklow. There are designated cleared spaces within the forest, which have different activities and areas of interest for the pre-school children. There is a toilet block and designated lunch room. A yurt has been built for the children to use if there are adverse weather conditions. There is a welcome area for when the children arrive and depart, this is the area where the children change into and out of their all-weather clothes.
<b>Staffing</b>	Six adults working in the service have attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed to be equivalent.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced Fit for Purpose 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 three themes; Governance, Safety and Premises.</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 registration.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The pre-school service has a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge available as required.

**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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*

*(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)

An adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. The service proposes to accommodate 35 children on a sessional, part time and full time basis with 6 adults working directly with the children at all times.

(8)(b)

Not applicable, the service is not proposing to operate as a child-minding service.

(c)

Not applicable, the service is not proposing to operate single-handedly.

**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.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (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 or*
  - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The pre-school is a fully outdoor facility with a range of play materials and equipment to meet the learning and care needs of the children. There are numerous areas of interests available to children including a construction area and an area for arts and crafts. The pre-school children have access to balance ropes, throw games, friendship swings, shape ropes, wide swings, a balance net and an outdoor puppet theatre with seating area. In addition, children are encouraged to collect fire wood for the fire pit which is lit on a daily basis.

(b)

There are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day by way of low level stackable beds in the indoor area and hammocks in the outdoor area.

(2)(b)

The outdoor nature area is suitable safe and secure and is enclosed by a high level fence and has a secure gate at the entrance to the service. Play equipment includes a mud

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>kitchen, fairy garden, tarpaulin area, assorted balance ropes, climbing trees, a zip line and a tree house. There is a permanent Yurt for play during inclement weather.</p> <p>(3)(a) Not applicable, as there is a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have full time access on a daily basis.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable, as the preschool children attending the service have full time access on a daily basis to this outdoor service.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable, as the service is not operating as a sessional service.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable, as an outdoor play area is attached to the premises.</p>
--	--

### 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.*

<b>Requirement Met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>The Kindergarten provide all the food, main meals, snacks and drinks for the children attending the service throughout the day. The meals and snacks are in accordance with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service.</p>
-------------------------	--

### 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.*

<b>Requirement Met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>Access to the pre-school service is secured by a high level side gate that is controlled by staff members. There is a bell to notify staff members to someone waiting outside the gate.</p> <p>There is a suitable enclosed area on arrival to the service that is sufficient to accommodate the safe storage of the children's personal belongings and change of clothes.</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap, paper hand towels and hand sanitiser dispensers are available in addition to foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary area for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues.</p>
-------------------------	---

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

The fire exit is clearly marked and unobstructed.  
All cleaning products are stored out of the reach of the pre-school children.  
The staff members risk assess the outdoor area twice a day to determine that there has been no damage to play/learning installations and the all areas are safe for 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
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children is at all times available to the pre-school children.

(2)(a) (b)

A fully stocked first aid box is located in the pre-school area out of the reach of children.

### 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 firefighting 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

A record is available of monthly fire drills that have been conducted in the pre-school service, the last dated fire drill was 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

(b)

Maintenance records are available for firefighting equipment and smoke and heat detectors. A service took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for firefighting equipment, and for smoke and heat detectors, which are located in prominent areas around the entire forest area, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

(4)

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire is displayed in the kindergarten nature area.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The current insurance certificate was available for review with an expiry date of 28/02/2022 and covers up to 32 children at present.

The insurance for the operation of the pre-school service will be amended to cover 35 children once the proposal to increase to 35 is accepted.

### 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)

Visually, the prefabricated unit in the outdoor area at the front of the kindergarten is in a state of good repair.

(b)

The entire premises in the kindergarten is secured from unauthorised entry by high level secured fencing and entry is controlled by the staff members.

(c)

Not applicable as this is an outdoor service.

(d)

Daily cleaning schedules are in place for the pre-school service outdoor area, sanitary area and the prefabricated unit following the cleaning guidelines outlined for the pre-school service in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

(e)

Four toilets and 5 wash hand basin are provided for children's use in the sanitary area with thermostatically controlled hot water. Staff sanitary facilities are available in an adjacent unit attached to the children's sanitary unit.

**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.*
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
  - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
  - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

**Requirement met:**

- (1)  
Sufficient space is available as the pre-school area covers approximately 5 acres and would accommodate the proposed 35 children.
- (2)  
Sufficient space is available for children attending on a part time basis.
- (3)  
A minimum of 1.818 square metres for each of the 35 proposed children attending on a sessional basis is available in the pre-school area.
- (4)(a)(b)  
In a contemporaneous situation a minimum of 1.818 square metres is available in the pre-school area for up to 35 children proposing to attend on a sessional and part time basis.
- (5)  
Not applicable, the service is not proposing to operate as a temporary pre-school service.