

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019FL003		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Parkview Creche		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Crofton Hall, Hamilton Park, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 V8F8		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Erica Duffy		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/08/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	41	PM 42
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Hosford and M Foley		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.		

### Description of service

Parkview Creche is situated in the urban area of Dublin 15 and offers a sessional, part-time, and full-time care to children aged 0-6 years of age and provides school age care. The service operates from 7:30am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday. A sessional Early Education and Childhood Care (ECCE) services operates during school term time from 9am to 12pm in the Summer School room and school age care is facilitated in the afternoon from 1:30-6:30pm. The service operates from a two-storey purpose-built premises in a residential apartment complex and has six care rooms, a separate cot room, sanitary facilities, a kitchen for the preparation of food, an office and outdoor area to the side of the service.

The five care rooms situated on the ground floor are the Baby room (0-1 years), Wobbler room (1-2 years), Toddler room (2-3 years), Junior Pre School (3-4 years) and Senior Pre School (4-5 years). On the first floor is the Summer School room (3-12 years) which was operating on the day of inspection for children aged from 3-12 years of age from 7:30am to 6:30pm.

### Staffing

The service employs 17 staff to include the registered provider, deputy person in charge, reception administrator and 14 childcare staff. The deputy person in charge was responsible for the preparation of meals and snacks for the children and both the registered provider and deputy person in charge provided break cover in the care rooms.

On the day of inspection there were 13 staff caring for 41 children aged from 1 to 5 years of age and 12 children aged from 5 -12 years.

### 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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (3), (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a)(b)

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)(2)(a)(b),

and Regulation 29 Premises (c), (e).

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child,

And 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and regulation 11 Staffing Levels were assessed across all the rooms.

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.

## Additional Information

1. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 11 August due to the requirements of Regulation 9 (2)(c) and 9(3) which requires that a registered provider has consideration of *“the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána”, “prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the preschool service.”*
  - On the 11 August the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice with the required Garda vetting disclosure for the staff member.
2. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 9 August due to the requirements of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child, *“that all 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”*. It was observed that the temperature of the Toddler room exceeded the recommended temperature of 16-20°C while children slept.
  - On the 10 August the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice with the actions implemented within the service. The service installed air conditioning units into the care room and will continue to monitor the room temperatures during the day and while children sleep.

## Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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

(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 required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced and was present for the duration of the inspection.

(2) The staff files of 17 employees working within the service were reviewed.

- (a) The following references were available from a past employer.
  - Two validated written references were available for three staff members.

- One validated written reference was available for ten staff members.
- One written validation was available from a past employer for one staff member.
- One written reference was available for two staff members.

(b) The following references were from a source other than a past employer.

- Two validated written references were available for two staff members.
- One validated written reference was available for ten staff members.
- One written reference was available for one staff member.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 17 staff members.

(d) International police vetting from 9 countries was available for 9 staff members who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Twelve staff members employed within the service had evidence to confirm they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that the required documentation was available for inspection.

(2)(a)

A written reference was not available to accompany a written validation from a past employer for one staff member.

One written reference was not appropriately validated for two staff members.

(b)

One written reference was not appropriately validated for one staff member.

(d)

International police vetting was not available from 6 countries in respect of 4 staff members who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(3)

On review of documentation, it was observed that 5 staff members had commenced employment within the service prior to the completion of the required vetting procedures taking place.

(4)  
Two staff members working directly with the early years children during the inspection did not have documentary evidence to confirm they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications. One staff member had no childcare qualification, and one staff member had no documentation available for inspection.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)  
(a) and (b)  
The registered provider has stated that references will be validated prior to start date.

(d)  
In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated that staff have applied for police vetting and one member has submitted it to the employer. Other staff members are in progress.

(3) On recruitment all references will be validated and any staff who lived outside Ireland over the age of 18 years of age must supply police vetting before starting work. Ensure that staff files are available when staff from other branches are covering from other locations.

(4) One staff member was employed as an assistant and not a lead in the room, this was an oversight. All staff working with children must hold the minimum requirement for Early Years to work with children.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a) and (b)  
All the required information has been submitted.

(d) Police vetting from two counties in respect of two staff members and evidence of the application for police vetting from two counties in respect of two staff members.

(4)  
No evidence submitted.

## Summary Comment

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 11 August due to the requirements of Regulation 9 (2)(c) and 9(3) which requires that a registered provider has consideration of *“the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána”, “prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the preschool service.”*

- On the 11 August the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice with the required Garda vetting disclosure for the staff member.

Following completion of the corrective and preventive action process the following information remains outstanding.

(2)(d) Police vetting from four counties in respect of three staff members.

(4) Evidence that one staff working with the children has a childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*

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

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in the service during the inspection.

(2) It was observed that the correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the following care rooms during the inspection.

Baby Room - there was 1 adult working directly with 1 child (0-1 year)

Wobbler room - there were 2 adults working with 6 children (1-2 years)

Toddlers Room- there was 2 adults working with 11 children (2-3 years)

Junior Pre School-room- there were 2 adults working with 15 children (3-4 years).

Senior Pre School- there was 1 adult working with 7 children (4-5 years)

Summer School Room – there was 1 adult caring for 1 child (3 years) and 1 adult caring for 12 school age children.

(8)(a) The staff roster available demonstrated that two adults were on the premises during the operation of the service.

## 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, and

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs:

- During the inspection the children in the three younger age rooms had sliced fruits and water for morning snack at 10am, a hot meal of broccoli casserole from an external food company was served at 11:30am and an afternoon tea of sausage rolls at 2:30pm. Additional food was available between meals if a child was hungry and alternative food was available if required.
- The children in the older care rooms had a snack from home at 10am which consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fruit, and yogurts. A hot meal of broccoli casserole was provided with an alternative made available of crackers, butter, and cheese. An afternoon tea of sausage rolls was served at 2:30pm. Children were encouraged to be independent at mealtimes with assistance given if required. The service worked with parents to ensure that individual children's dietary needs were facilitated and accommodated. The service updated parents on any changes made to the service menu on a daily and weekly basis. Water was available throughout the care rooms and children were observed accessing them frequently throughout the inspection.
- Each child that required sleep was facilitated and arrangements were in place to accommodate children that didn't sleep in other care rooms during this time.
- All the children accessed the outdoor area throughout the inspection and an overhead shelter was provided to enable staff and children to enjoy the area in all weathers.

### Supporting Relationships:

- Staff in the care rooms maintained daily contact with parents via an electronic application which recorded each child's meals, sleeps, activities, and nappy changes were required.
- Additional staff members were available in the Wobbler and Toddler room to assist staff at transitions such as before meals, nappy changes and settling children to sleep.
- Staff were observed engaging with children in a relaxed and friendly manner and provided them with opportunities for play and independence while supporting them throughout the day and during transitions from activities. Any minor issues between children were dealt with calmly and fairly.
- The children were observed moving freely and independently throughout the care rooms and outdoor areas and assisting their friends at mealtimes and play time.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The care rooms were laid out with consideration for the age and interests of the children in attendance. For example:

- The Baby room and Wobbler rooms were laid out with consideration of the age profile of the children attending. There were age-appropriate materials as follows:  
Baby room: soft matting, climbing ramps, activity centers, low wall mirrors, accessible baskets with musical instruments, blocks, shapes sorters and balls.  
The Wobbler room had space for walking, crawling, and playing with accessible areas of interest which consisted of construction materials, blocks, bricks, cars and trucks, a home area with play kitchen, baskets, boxes, play food and dolls. Accessible open shelving with wooden puzzles and jigsaws. Rest areas consisting of mats, child size chairs and books.
- The Junior and Senior Pre School rooms were bright, and equipped with an adequate number of toys, and materials to meet the needs of the children. Areas of interest included a home area with a rest and relaxation space included with a library area, construction, tabletop, and art areas. Open shelving areas with bricks, blocks, jigsaws and stacking shapes were available.

- The outdoor area to the side of the service was accessible to the individual care rooms and designed with regard for the age profile of the children. The space was secured with a high fence and surfaced with a soft matting surface for the younger children and an artificial grass for the older care rooms. The children engaged with movable see saws, jungle gyms, climb frames with slides, a play tunnel, playhouse, large building blocks, ride on bikes and cars, sand pits and large outdoor building bricks.

### Non-Compliance Information

1. The tables used at mealtimes in the Wobbler room and Junior Pre School room were observed to be too high for the children that were seated at them. As a result, it was observed that the children's ability to feed themselves independently and comfortably master fine motor movements at mealtimes was restricted.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated that after researching this it is the lowest table, we can find so children who are small in height will be fed in highchairs until they grow to suit the table. Ensure that children are comfortable eating at the table or in a highchair. This is to encourage their independence in feeding themselves.

### Summary Comment

The service has addressed the non-compliance as identified.

## 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 main door of the service was locked with entry to authorised adults under the supervision of the administrative assistant and designated person in charge. Children were supervised while in the reception area and exit from the service was restricted by a lock which was positioned out of children's reach.
- The outdoor area was secured with a locked gate and high fence. This reduced the unauthorised access of an adult or the unsupervised exit of a child.

- The cots used by the children were observed to be suitable and age appropriate.
- The cleaning materials and equipment used by the staff in the service were stored out of children's reach.
- Children that moved between care rooms to facilitate sleep and the gradual introduction to a new care room were recorded in the relevant roll book to reflect their attendance and to ensure their safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

### Infection Control:

The registered provider ensured that infection control practices were carried out according to their service policy and best practice guidelines.

- The service was observed to be clean with daily and weekly cleaning schedules available and completed by staff.
- Staff were observed carrying out the nappy changing procedure according to the service policy and best practice guidelines.
- Children in the service were observed washing their hands on returning to the care room after outdoor play and before mealtimes.
- Children's morning snack brought from home were stored in the fridge on arrival to the service until break time.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available in the sanitary facilities and care rooms used by the children.
- Cots and stackable beds used by the children at sleep time in the Cot room, Wobbler room and Toddler room were positioned with a minimum of 50cm between each one.

### Safe Sleep:

- Staff in the service maintained ten-minute sleep checks on all sleeping children to include colour, breathing and position, and temperature of the care room.
- Children's sheets and blankets were stored separately and washed weekly or more frequently if required. Cellular blankets were available for use if required by the children.
- All children under the age of 2 years were facilitated in standard cots for sleep.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. It was observed that an unstable shelf unit was accessible to the children in the Junior Pre School room. This could potentially fall and injure a child.

#### Safe Sleep:

2. The temperature of the cot room, Wobbler room and Toddler room at sleep time was recorded above the recommended 16-20°C while children slept. This increased the potential risk of cot death. It is acknowledged that staff removed excess clothing from children, doors and windows were opened and the window blinds were closed.

- The cot room was recorded as 21.4°C at 12:35pm.
- The Wobbler room was recorded as 22.3 °C at 12:35pm.
- The Toddler room was recorded as 23.8°C at 12:43pm.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The registered provider has stated that the shelf in Preschool room has been moved to avoid falling. Ensure furniture is fixed to wall or not too tall and free standing.

#### Safe Sleep:

2. An air conditioning unit was hired to reduce the temperatures in room. We will hire this each year to prevent rooms getting warm.

### Summary Comment

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 9 August due to the requirements of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child, *“that all 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”*. It was observed that the temperature of the Toddler room exceeded the recommended temperature of 16-20°C while children slept.

- On the 10 August the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice with the actions implemented within the service. The service installed air conditioning units into the care room and will continue to monitor the room temperatures during the day and while children sleep.

The service has addressed the non-compliances as identified.

## 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 registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff held First Aid Responder (FAR) certification training.

(2)(a)(b) Well-equipped first aid boxes were available to the children attending the service and were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

(c) Adequate ventilation was available in the Baby room by means of mechanical air conditioning.

(e) The Baby room, Wobbler room and Toddler room had sufficient nappy changing facilities for the number and age profile of the children attending during the inspection as the table below demonstrates.

Room Name	Number of children & age profile	Number of Sanitary facilities available
<b>Baby</b>	1(0-1 years)	1 nappy area 1 sink
<b>Wobbler</b>	6(1-2 years)	1 nappy area 1 sink
<b>Toddler</b>	11 (2-3 years)	2 toilets 1 nappy area 2 sinks

\*Calculated on the requirement of 1 nappy mat and 1 sink for every 11 children that require nappy changing.