

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019FL003
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Name of Service:	Parkview Creche
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Address of Service:	Crofton Hall, Hamilton Park, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 PH21
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Name of Registered Provider:	Erica Duffy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/08/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	35
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and T Nelson
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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 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 also 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 ECCE 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 five 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 four care rooms situated on the ground floor are the Wobbler room (1-2 years), Toddler room (2-3 years), Blue Pre School (3-4 years) and Red Pre School (4-5 years). On the first floor is the ECCE room which was operating as the Afterschool room during the inspection for children aged from 5-12 years of age.

Staffing

The service employs 14 staff to include the registered provider, deputy person in charge, reception administrator, a cook and 10 childcare staff. Both the registered provider and deputy person in charge provided break cover in the care rooms.

On the day of inspection there were 7 staff caring for 35 children aged from 1 to 5 years of age and 3 staff caring for 21 children aged from 5-12 years in the morning and 2 staff caring for 20 children in the afternoon.

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 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

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

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures (1)(a)(b) and (4).

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

An Immediate Action notice was issued to the service on the 28 August 2024 in relation to the following:

Regulation 23- Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

- The designated fire exit in the Red Pre School room was locked and obstructed reducing the effective evacuation of staff and children in the event of an emergency.

On the 29 August 2024 the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice with the measures implemented within the service. Please see details in the body of the inspection report.

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

(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.*

(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

(2) The staff files of four employees employed in the service since the last inspection in August 2023 were reviewed.

(a)(b) Two validated written references were available for the four staff employed and working in the service from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 14 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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

(4) On review of documentation available four staff members working with the children had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.

Wobbler room - there were 2 adults working with 7 children (1-2 years).

Toddler Room- there was 2 adults working with 12 children (2-3 years).

Blue Pre School-room- there was 1 adult working with 7 children (3-4 years).

Red Pre School- there were 2 adults working with 9 children (4-5 years).

Summer School Room – there were 3 adults working with 21 school age children in the morning and 2 adults working with 20 children in the afternoon.

(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 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 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, 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 surface for the older care rooms. The children engaged with movable see saws, jungle gyms, climbing frames with slides, a play tunnel, playhouse, ride on bikes and cars, play dough and large outdoor building bricks.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The tables used at mealtimes in the Wobbler room and Red 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.
2. The books available to the children in the Toddler room were observed to be in poor condition with torn edges and pages missing. This could potentially reduce the enjoyment and engagement in the story for the children and their literary experience.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that following the inspection the tables were changed, and the correct tables have now been reinstated in the rooms. This issue was discussed at the staff meeting and the correct size of table has been included in the risk assessment for the care rooms.
2. To address the non-compliance the provider has stated that new books were ordered the day after the inspection and the area now has full story books in the book area. Staff were advised to inform management on daily risk assessments if they are low on resources and staff are aware of this. All staff were spoken to about supplies and room readiness and includes full presentable books.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. and 2. Staff meeting minutes and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances 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 the children's reach.
- The toys, play equipment and shelving observed in use on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

- 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 a refrigerator 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 with standard cots for sleep.
- The temperature of the cot room, Wobbler room and Toddler room at sleep time was recorded within the recommended 18-22°C while children slept. For example. Cot room 21.1 °C at 12:27pm, Wobbler room 21.5 °C at 12:21pm and the Toddler room 20.5 °C at 12:25pm.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The designated fire exit in the Red Pre School room was locked and obstructed by children's sofa's, thus reducing the effective evacuation of staff and children in the event of an emergency. As a result, an Immediate Action notice was issued to the service on the 28 August 2024.
2. Children in the Toddler room has access to a cleaning spray in the sanitary facility, this increased the potential risk of poisoning.
3. Children within the service were not accurately reflected in the roll books used by staff, this reduced their effective evacuation in the event of an emergency. For example.

- At 10:23am one child in the Wobbler room was not recorded in the roll book, staff were made aware of the error and rectified the recording.
- A child that was transitioning from the Red Pre School room to the Blue Pre School room was not recorded in the Blue Pre School room. Staff were made aware of the error but did not alter the roll book.

Infection Control:

4. A child with a nasal discharge was not assisted or encouraged to clean their face. This increased the potential risk of cross infection as the child was observed to touch their face and play equipment within the care room.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. On the 29 August 2024 the service responded to the Immediate Action Notice issued on inspection. The registered provider stated that the fire door has been reopened and in use for emergencies with the light over the door. All staff are aware of their daily responsibilities.
2. In response the service has stated that the spray is now stored out of reach of children and inaccessible.
3. To address the non-compliance the service has reported that staff are aware of signing in and out children on arrival and collection. Staff in this room were spoken to on a one-to-one basis following the inspection and at the staff meeting on the 18/09/2024. Manager will carry out regular spot checks to ensure all children are signed in.

Infection Control:

4. Following the inspection staff were made aware of health and safety and that all children's noses must be wiped using gloves and handwashing after. Staff were spoken to on the day and at the staff meeting on the 18/09/2024, and this will be monitored daily. This is part of staff responsibility and will be addressed by the manager if not followed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1-3. Documentary and photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

4. Documentary and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified.

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)

The last recorded fire drill that took place in the service was on the 31 July 2024.

(b)

The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was present in the service, both were serviced in August 2024.

(4)

A notice of the fire procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency were clearly displayed in the main hallway of the service and the care rooms.