

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022DY004
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Name of Service:	Eco Kidz Park Avenue
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Address of Service:	Railway Union, Park Avenue, Sandymount, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 PF86
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Name of Registered Provider:	Richard Lynch
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	H Sutherland
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

Eco Kidz Park Avenue is a privately own early years service located in a residential area in Sandymount Co Dublin. The service operates from a purposely adapted room within a sports complex. Care and education are provided to children aged 2 to 6 years, Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8.30 am to 12.00 pm. A small outdoor area is provided to the side of the building.

Staffing

There are currently two adults employed to work in the service. On the day of the inspection there were two adults present. The registered provider does not work in the service and participated in the feedback meeting remotely. .

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, and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under
Regulation 9 (2) (c) Management and recruitment
Regulation 11 (1), (3), –Staffing Levels
Regulation 19 (1)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child

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Regulation 23– Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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

Regulation 26 – (1), (a), (b), (4) –Fire Safety Measures

Regulation –28 Insurance

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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-
(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,

Compliance Information

During discussions with the person in charge, it was confirmed that the registered provider currently employs two adults, both of whom were present during the previous inspection dated 3 October 2023. The requirements of Regulation 9(2), (3) and (4) were reviewed for both staff at that time.

As such, the scope of the review of Regulation 9 was limited to the requirements specified under 9(2)(c). The findings are detailed below.

- (2)
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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) The number of adults present and working directly with the children on the day of the inspection was appropriate to support their needs.
- (3) The minimum adult-to-child ratio was maintained for the duration of the inspection. There were two adults working directly with seven children for the duration the session.

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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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed in the service as evidenced by the following:

The preschool room was calm and relaxed when the inspector arrived at the service. Children were observed engaging in play within the designated interest areas in the room. Staff sat with children during this time and engaged in play, taking time to extend children's learning. It was evident that children are active agents in their own learning, they were observed choosing and organising their learning activities. Children bring their lunch from home, and the person in charge stated that parents/guardians are provided with information on healthy lunches prior to their child starting in the service. This was reflected in the healthy snacks children were observed eating during the inspection. Mealtime was a positive, social experience for children. Staff were observed sitting with children during their meal and engaging them in conversation, supporting the development of their linguistic skills and allowing them time to express their views.

Transitions within the service were managed effectively, with children observed moving from one activity to the next with ease. Children were supported to become confident and independent in managing their self-help and self-care needs, for example tidying up following play and lunch, managing their own lunch boxes, asking for help when needed, finding and putting on their coats, using the toilet, and washing their hands independently. An area with soft matting, cushions and books was available to children wishing to take a rest during the day. Adult-child interactions were observed to be warm and respectful, and it was evident that children's voices were heard, respected, and acted on. For example, children expressed interest in an alternative activity during group time, and the staff immediately responded by adapting the activity to suit the children's request. Additionally, during outdoor play, the doors were left open, and children preferring to play indoors were provided with the opportunity to do so. Staff reported that they operate a flexible settling-in period for new children joining the service, and that formal and informal opportunities are provided for the exchange of information with parents/guardians. This was observed at collection time, where staff gave parents/guardians time to discuss key aspects of their child's day in a warm, friendly manner. The service also uses a software application to share information on children's daily learning experiences.

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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 entrance doors to the service were adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons from entering and to ensure children could not exit unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of children's reach.
- The windows were secured and positioned out of children's reach.
- Fruit and vegetables in the children's lunch boxes were observed to be quartered or halved.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use in the bathrooms and the preschool room to support the safe disposal of waste.
- Liquid soap, running water and single use paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing.
- Staff and children were observed engaging in appropriate and consistent hand-washing routines.
- The perishable items contained in the snacks provided by parents/guardians were stored in the fridge upon arrival and kept refrigerated until snack time, preventing them from spoiling.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an awareness of the procedures required to ensure medication is given safely if needed, including obtaining written parental/guardian consent prior to administration.

Fire Safety:

- Staff adequately described the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire.
- The designated fire escape routes were clearly marked and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A free-standing shelf in the preschool room, which contained children's play equipment, was not safely anchored to the wall posing a potential risk of tipping and injury to a child.

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Infection Control:

2. The wall in the children's bathroom was heavily soiled, posing a risk of the spread of infection.
3. The nappy changing unit and changing mat were soiled, and the mat was torn exposing the inner foam.
Damaged and soiled equipment increases the risk of the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The free-standing shelf was removed from the care room and replacement shelving will be fixed to the wall.

Infection Control:

2. The wall will be cleaned weekly and the cleaning schedule has been updated.
3. The damaged changing mat was removed and replaced with a new mat. Staff will carry out daily checks to ensure the equipment is clean, undamaged and fit for purpose.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No evidence submitted

Infection Control:

2. Photograph and cleaning schedule submitted
3. Photograph and cleaning schedule submitted

Summary Comment

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

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Compliance Information

- (1) There was evidence to show that one adult holds certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and was immediately available to the children for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely, in an easily accessible and prominent position in the preschool room.
 - (b) The first aid box was observed to be readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill occurred on 11 February 2026.
 - (b) The maintenance record for the smoke alarms on the premises was up to date, with the most recent servicing completed on 27 February 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall next to the fire exit.

Non-Compliance Information

There was no evidence to demonstrate that fire fighting equipment had been serviced within the past year. Failure to routinely service firefighting equipment compromises the safety of the children attending the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The fire extinguishers have been serviced and a fire safety compliance checklist has been introduced by the Railway Union Management to ensure annual servicing certificates are requested, received and filed in advance of

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expiry date. Responsibility for monitoring and updating fire safety records has been assigned to the designated fire safety officer to ensure ongoing compliance is met in line with the Fire Safety Policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the service is adequately insured for the type of service provided and the number of children in attendance. The service is insured for a maximum of 22 children and cover is valid until 27 March 2026.

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

Non-Compliance Information

- (c) Discolouration consistent with suspected fungal growth was observed above the skirting boards in the children's bathrooms, posing a potential risk to children's health.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (c) The issue was reported to the Railway Union management team for assessment and a staff member cleaned the affected area using appropriate cleaning spray to minimise any hygiene risk. To prevent recurrence the bathroom area will continue to be checked regularly as part of the cleaning schedule and any signs of dampness or discolouration will be reported immediately to the Railway Union Management team.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The actions have been deemed appropriate in addressing the non-compliances. The effectiveness of the actions will be assessed on the next inspection.