

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022DY004
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Eco Kidz Park Avenue
-------------------------	----------------------

Address of Service:	Railway Union, Park Avenue, Sandymount, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D04 PF86
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Richard Lynch
-------------------------------------	---------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	03/10/2023
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Eco Kidz Park Avenue is an early years sessional service. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years and operates Monday to Friday 50 weeks per year. The service opening hours are from 8:30am to 12:00pm. The service operates from a purposely adapted care room within a sports complex. There is a small outdoor play area to the front of the building.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were three staff members working directly with the children. The quality manager and the registered provider were also present.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 children, registered provider, person in charge and staff 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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

This regulation was assessed in relation to all staff who were employed in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Of the ten references required seven validated references were available from a past employer. A further three written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.

(d) International Police vetting was available for four staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available detailing the required qualifications or equivalent for all staff members.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

International Police vetting was not available for two staff members who had lived in a State other than Ireland for a period exceeding 6 months.

It is acknowledged that Police vetting has been applied for one adult and the second adult had inadequate vetting available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

International police vetting from other states than Ireland for two staff members have been attained and stored in appropriate folders in a drive for the setting.

Staff recruitment checklist made to assure future proper recruitment process that meets regulatory requirements.

See sample attached. Reviewed recruitment policy and procedure; Clearly states that new staff members cannot commence work in the setting before all necessary vetting's have been attained.

Supporting documentation submitted

International Police vetting documents were submitted for review.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 9.

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.

(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) Documentary evidence indicated that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained. On the morning of the inspection, there were eleven pre-school children present with 3 staff directly caring for and supervising these preschool children.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

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

On speaking with the adults working in the service they informed the inspector that healthy eating is promoted in line with the Healthy Policy of the service. • The parents of the children attending provide the food for children's snack the service. • Drinking water is available within the playroom, the inspector observed children accessing their individual drinks from the low shelving within the room as needed during the session. The children were seated on the low-level chairs at the low-level tables at the mealtime observed on inspection. • The inspector observed the atmosphere at the mealtime to be relaxed and unhurried with the adults supervising and assisting the children as required and with pleasant social interaction among the children and the adults.

The care room was bright with lots of natural light. Family photographs and children's artwork was displayed. A variety of equipment and materials were visible and accessible to the children on low, open shelves. The rooms had space for free movement and floor play.

The inspector observed that the children present enjoyed free movement within the playroom and between the various designated play areas that were very well resourced with a variety of play equipment and materials.

Children had access to a designated rest area within the playroom. The area was resourced with soft furnishings and a mat.

There was a small outdoor area located to the front of the building which the children had access to.

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Low level hooks were provided for coats and bags. The inspectors observed the children using the toilet as they needed. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during mealtimes.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting the children in their work and play. The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children through use of soft and gentle tones throughout the inspection.

Staff communicated with parents at drop off and collection.