

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024KE009
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Name of Service:	Parkview Creche
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Address of Service:	Linden Gate, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W23 R20W
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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(s) of Inspection:	14/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
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Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern and F. Carty
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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	NA
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Description of service

Parkview creche opened in 2024. It is one of five private early years services operated by the registered provider and can accommodate up to 60 children. It provides full day care, part time and a sessional service to children aged 1-6 years from 07:45 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. The service is located in a purpose-built, single-story building within a housing estate on the outskirts of Maynooth. The premises includes four care rooms, a cot room, and an outdoor area. Three care rooms were operating on the day of the inspection.

Staffing

The registered provider employs nine staff members to work in the service including the service manager. Eight staff members and the registered provider were present on the day of the inspection.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19(1)(a) – Health, welfare and development of child. The scope of the inspection under this regulation included the Wobbler and Big Toddler 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.

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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 person in charge and a named person to deputise.

(b) The person in charge was always on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or a person who could deputise to be present at all times of opening.

(2) The inspection focused on records for all nine employees and the registered provider.

(a) & (b) Appropriate consideration had been given to references. Each adult had a minimum of two past employer references with records of verification.

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

(d) International police vetting had been sourced for all adults who had lived in another state for more than six months as an adult.

(4) All staff members held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Minister.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) The Garda vetting disclosure for one adult had not been sourced and considered prior to the adult commencing work in the service. The adult commenced employment on 26 January 2025. The Garda vetting disclosure was dated 26 February 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The adult was recruited by agency which completed all documents. The Garda vetting was in progress.

The staff member was hired to work in office to facilitate administrative work only. At no point was the staff member working alone or directly with children. A revised recruitment checklist has been implemented. Garda Vetting clearance is now a mandatory item that must be ticked off and verified by the manager before an employment start date is confirmed.

The service manager is to review and sign off on the vetting status of each new hire before they begin work.

Enhanced tracking and documentation processes have been implemented to monitor the status of all vetting applications in progress.

Supporting documentation submitted

Personnel file checklist template.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted have been deemed appropriate in addressing the non-compliance.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 7 adults working directly with 22 children. The service manager was available to assist as needed.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff members on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for a minimum of two staff to be on the premises at all times of opening.

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

Basic Needs

The children moved freely within the rooms, engaging in free play and activities. Transitions between care routines and activities were well managed with staff explaining to the children what was going to happen next. Meals and snacks were provided at regular intervals. The adults sat with the children when eating, promoting independence and social skills. Drinks were always available within the rooms and were offered with meals and snacks.

Staff supported the children to manage their personal care. They prompted the children to clean their hands and faces at appropriate times, assisting the younger children as needed. Staff supported children's independence with toileting, prompting them to use it routinely. Children who wore nappies had these changed at regular intervals and in between when required. Each child had a change of clothes available for use if necessary.

The children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. They slept in cots or low beds appropriate to their age and stage of development. The children were made comfortable for sleep with their outer clothing and shoes removed and soothers given to those who used them. Staff told the inspectors that the children are provided with an opportunity to sleep outside of this time if they show signs of tiredness.

Supporting Relationships around Children

The adults fostered positive relationships with the children by offering support through attentive listening, responsive interactions, and gentle guidance. They engaged kindly with the children, comforting them when they became upset. Group activities, such as cooperative play and shared meals were designed to develop communication skills, strengthen social bonds and help children build friendships. A key person approach was used to support children in forming secure attachments with staff.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Staff discussed maintaining connections with families. Pictures of children's families were displayed at the children's eye-level. Staff reported sharing information at drop-off and collection time and use of an app to communicate with parents.