

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DR078 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | The Park Academy Beacon South Quarter |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | The Cubes, Beacon South Quarter, Sandyford, Dublin 18. |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | D18 YV99 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Dearbhala Cox Giffin |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day |
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| <b>Date 1 of Inspection:</b> | 24/03/2026 |
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| <b>Date 2 of Inspection:</b> | 24/04/2026 |
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|-----------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children: day 1</b> | AM | 83 | PM | 82 |
| <b>No of pe-school children: day 2</b>  | AM | 76 | PM | 78 |

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|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, County Dublin. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken day 1 by:</b>          | Olivia Quill, Rachael Duff, Margaret Bermingham                                                 |
| <b>Inspection undertaken day 2 by:</b>          | Olivia Quill, Linda Magee, Aisling Byrne                                                        |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspector and Inspection Registration Manager                                       |

### 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).

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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable |
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### Description of service

The Park Academy Beacon South Quarter is one of a multiple of 8 services privately operated by the registered provider. Full day care is provided for children ranging in age from 0-6 years from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from a purpose-built premises in a mixed-use development complex in an urban area of south county Dublin.

Care is delivered across six rooms. The Bunnies room caters for the youngest children attending who were aged from 1 year, Jellytots caters for children aged 1-2 years, Rascals and Appledrops catered for children aged 1-2 years of age. The Smarties room catered for children aged 2-3 years and the Owls room accommodated children aged 3-5 years. Two designated sleep rooms were provided and a sensory room was available. Two separate enclosed outdoor spaces were provided on the premises.

### Staffing

In total 25 adults are employed in the service including two domestic staff. On the first day of inspection 22 childcare staff worked directly with the children. A student was also present on work placement. The deputy person in charge was available to provide additional support to staff as required. The area manager was present in the service when the inspectors arrived and remained for the inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service. On the second of inspection 19 childcare staff worked directly with the children. The manager and deputy manager were available to provide additional support. The area manager arrived during the inspection and remained for the closing meeting.

### 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

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- 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child and Regulation 19 – Health Welfare and Development of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Bunnies, Rascals, Apple Drops, Jellytots and Smarties rooms and did not include the Owl room.

On the 24 April 2026 a triggered unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (7) (a) Management and recruitment

Regulation 10 Policies procedures etc. of Pre-School Service

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

Regulation 19 (1)(b), (2) and (3) Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 27 Supervision

A sampling process was used to assess Regulation 19 – Health Welfare and Development of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Bunnies, Rascals and the Owl room.

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.

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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

The second date of inspection was triggered by information received by the Agency in relation to an incident which occurred in the service on the 10 April 2026. Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) footage in relation to this incident was reviewed as part of the inspection methodology.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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.*

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*(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.*

*(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training including in relation to the following:*

*(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in schedule*

*(b) part VIIA of the Act*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a), (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. The deputy person in charge was present on the premises at all times during the inspection.

(c) Evidence was available to demonstrate the service had a clear management structure and when spoken to staff were familiar with their individual roles and responsibilities and the lines of authority.

(2) Following discussions with the area manager and deputy manager, and a review of records, it was identified that eight new adults had been employed since the last inspection. This inspection included a review of these eight personnel files, as well as the file of a student undertaking a work placement, as detailed below.

(a), (b) In total 18 written validated references were available as required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for nine adults. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence showed that eight adults had lived in a state other than Ireland for more than six consecutive months as adults. International police vetting from the relevant countries was available for eight adults.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the eight adults employed to work directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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(7)(a), (b) Staff were consulted regarding training received. A number of staff had recently completed behaviour management training and were able to clearly outline recommended care practices. They demonstrated familiarity with the service's behaviour management policy.

Staff confirmed that one-to-one supervision meetings with their manager take place on a three monthly basis. In addition, regular staff meetings are held to support communication.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were in place. The inspection focused on a review of the following policies.

- Behaviour Management
- Staff training
- Staff supervision
- Safe Sleep
- Risk management

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### 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 directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On day 1 of inspection there were 83 children attending the service being supervised by 22 adults. On day 2 of inspection there were 76 children attending the service being supervised by 19 adults. The person in charge and deputy person in charge were available to provide additional support as required.
- (8)(a) There were at least 2 adults on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for a minimum of adults to be on the premises at all times of opening.

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### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*  
*(c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The records available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.

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- (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.
- (3) (c) The records relating to pre-school children were available on the premises and open for inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(k) A sample of ten accident and incident forms were reviewed. The forms were completed correctly signed by the parent, member of staff caring for the child and the manager

### 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.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b) Appropriate and suitable care practices were in place within the service. Staff were observed interacting warmly with children throughout the inspection. They communicated in a respectful and gentle manner at all

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times. Children who were settling were comforted appropriately, with staff holding and reassuring them when upset.

Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals. A hot meal was served at lunchtime. Younger children were seated in highchairs, with staff positioned at their level, encouraging independence in feeding while providing assistance where required. Bibs were used to protect children's clothing. Older children were encouraged to self-serve, with serving dishes placed at the centre of the table. Children were observed helping themselves, and additional portions were available and offered by staff. Mealtimes were calm, social occasions, with children and staff engaging in conversation. Drinking water was freely accessible in all care rooms.

Staff utilised routine care moments, such as nappy changing, as opportunities for positive one-to-one interactions. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently.

All children were provided with opportunities for rest and sleep. Younger children were encouraged to remove their shoes and socks prior to sleep time. Staff supported children in settling by remaining with them, gently rubbing their backs, speaking soothingly, and playing relaxing music. Children who used soothers were provided with them at sleep time.

All children had access to outdoor play. They were appropriately dressed in accordance with the weather conditions.

Staff were observed communicating effectively with parents at collection times. They provided detailed accounts of each child's day and responded appropriately to any questions raised by parents.

(2) The inspectors noted that no instances of corporal punishment were observed being used in the childcare service during the inspection.

(3) During the days of inspection, staff interactions with children in their care were consistently warm and respectful. Inspectors observed no unsuitable care practices during the days of inspection.

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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 door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning products and medication were stored securely out of reach of the children.
- Highchairs were in good condition and fitted with safety harnesses.
- Storage areas were inaccessible to children and child proof locks were in place on low level cupboards.

##### Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were available.
- Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.
- Staff were observed to have good hand hygiene and supported children to wash hands at appropriate times.
- Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste.
- Staff followed infection control procedures to prevent cross contamination during nappy changing, in line with the service policy.

##### Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency.
- Care plans were in place for children who required regular or emergency medication, and staff were familiar with these plans.
- A sample of the administration of medication documents reviewed contained the necessary details.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff maintained a record every ten minutes of individual children's observations including their breathing, colour, position and the room temperature.

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- The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

- In the Smarties room, a trailing flex was noted running through a play area accessible to children posing a potential safety risk.
- In the Rascals room, one child required specific medication for an existing medical condition. It was identified that not all medication listed on the child's care plan was available on site, posing a potential safety risk in the event of a medical emergency. Staff were spoken to and responded promptly by contacting the child's parents to ensure that all prescribed medication was provided.
- In the Owls room a cupboard used to store dress up clothing for children was not secured posing a potential safety risk.

#### Infection Control:

- In the sanitary area used by the Rascals room a small toy cup was on the floor behind the toilet and a toilet brush was stored on a low-level shelf posing a potential infection control risk. Its acknowledge when this was pointed out to a staff member these items were immediately discarded.

#### Safe Sleep:

- In the Rascals room two child who were aged under 2 years were placed to sleep on stackable floor beds this is contrary to Tusla guidance on sleep provision for children under 2 years and the safe sleep policy & procedure of the service which stated "stackable beds are not to be used for children under two years". Staff were not familiar with the sleep policy and there were no sleep plans and risk assessments completed.

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### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The flex has been tacked to the wall. Base room hazard checklist includes checking for trailing flexes and can be immediately secured if necessary.
2. The parent brought in new medication same evening. Medication dates are checked monthly by the management team, and parents are informed in a timely manner that medication will need to be replaced. Parents are made aware, as per our medication policy, children are not allowed onsite unless medication is in date and onsite.
3. A new dress up storage unit has been purchased and one that does not have to be secured. Monthly hazard checklists include checking furniture is secured as necessary.

##### Infection Control:

4. The toy cup and toilet brush were immediately discarded. Toilet brushes are no longer placed in children's bathrooms.

##### Safe Sleep:

5. Floor beds were purchased and are now in place. Sleep plans are now in place for all children that sleep in the centre. Risk assessments are in place for children under 2 that have moved from a cot to a floor bed. Team retrained on safe sleep policy for under 2's. Ongoing - as per the Safe sleep policy - Cot risk assessments are to be completed for every child under 2 that moves to a floor bed from a cot. Sleep plans are done for all children that sleep in the centre.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Written and photographic evidence.

##### Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence.

##### Safe Sleep:

Written and photographic evidence

### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions stated. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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### 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 a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times.

Evidence provided demonstrated two staff members who were present had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training certifications. The FAR certificates were valid until the 11 December 2026 and the 25 April 2027.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous place in each of the care rooms and available to the children attending the service at all times.

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### 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 monthly record of fire drills was available. The last fire drill was completed on 10 March 2026.
  - (b) The number type and maintenance record for fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. The fire fighting equipment was serviced on the 17 June 2025 and the smoke alarm was serviced on the 23 December 2025.
  - (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main hall and each care room.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

Staff were observed to supervise children by sight and sound in the indoor and outdoor areas at all times during the inspection.