

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC333		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rainbow Childcare		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Millbrook, Seskin, Bantry, Co. Cork		
<b>Eircode:</b>	P75 VH24		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Katie Whooley		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/07/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM 17
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Social Work Dept Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Carney		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable		

### Description of service

Rainbow Childcare is registered to provide a full day care, part time and sessional early years care and education to children aged from 0 – 6 years.

It operates from 08:30am to 16 :30pm daily.

The service is situated on an elevated position on a small residential estate on a perimeter road in Bantry. It occupies a detached bungalow which has been adapted to provide a childcare facility.

There are 4 playrooms in total, with a designated sleep room, toilet facilities, staff room and kitchen.

The children have direct access to secured outdoor play areas.

Some car parking is available to the front of the building to allow the safe arrival and departure of the children with their families.

### Staffing

The registered provider has employed 7 adults to work directly with the children. This includes the manager, the deputy and five childcare professionals.

Each of the childcare professionals have completed Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) ranging from Level 5 to Level 8.

### 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections 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 manager, deputy, 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

(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

(1)(a)

The registered provider had designated a manager to be responsible for service operation. A deputy had been appointed to deputise as required.

(b)

On the day of the inspection both the manager and deputy were on the premises and readily available to facilitate the inspection process. Review of the rosters indicated that either the manager or deputy were on the premises for the duration of service provision.

(2)(a) & (b)

There were 7 adults employed in the service. Each of their personal files were reviewed and the following information was found –

There were 8 written past employers references on file with records of verification attached.

There were 6 written references from sources that the registered provider considered to be reputable, with records of validation attached.

(c)

There were 7 up to date Garda vetting disclosures on file.

(d)

Police vetting was available for the 1 childcare professional who had lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training were on file for each staff members, ranging from Level 5 to Level 8.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

On the day of the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2)

There was a total of 17 children aged from 1 year to 5 years attending the service on a full day care basis with 4 adults in attendance.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
The children's enrolment forms attending the service on the day of the inspection were reviewed, a total of 17. The forms were found to have the required information as listed above in relation to Regulation 15 (a) to (i).

### 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:*

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- The service maintained the relevant information of the service in respect of Regulation 16 (a) to (i)
- (j) The manager made available an administration of medication recording book to detail any medications that may be required for a child attending the service. There were no entries.
- (k) The service had a record book to detail any accidents or incidents that had occurred in the service. The last entry was recorded on the 15 June 2023 and involved a minor incident. The information had been relayed to the parents as evidenced by the counter signature.

### 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

- Parents and guardians supplied their children with all their food and drink provisions.
- Meals were offered in a timely and flexible manner according to the children's needs. For example, not every child required breakfast, but this was offered about 10:00am, and some children enjoyed a fruit snack at this time.
- Lunch was provided approximately 12:15pm with another snack being offered at 2pm.
- Meals were eaten in the kitchen dining room, staff encouraged the children to independently prepare the table, retrieve lunches from the fridge and assisted with food preparation.
- The children sat with their friends and the event was observed to be relaxed, unhurried and sociable.
- The younger children sat facing the tables in highchairs enjoying the socialisation also.
- Bibs for mealtimes and aprons to protect the children's clothing during paints and messy play were available.
- Staff members supervised toileting and the children were observed to be familiar with regular hand washing routine, for example after outdoor play and prior to lunch.
- Childrens coats and their bags and personal belongings were stored on low hooks in the hallway, to encourage organised, independent dressing.
- Children observed playing in the outdoor playgrounds were reminded to wear their sun hats and sun lotions were liberally applied.
- Rest areas were available to the children in each of the playrooms to allow the children to opt out play activities and relax if they so wished.
- The service provided many playrooms with sufficient clear floor space for the children to enjoy free play, socialisation and encourage investigation of their environment in a supervised manner. Likewise, the outdoor play areas allowed for a change of scenery, robust gross motor skill play and fresh air.

### Physical and Material Environment –

- Rainbow Childcare occupied a residential bungalow that had recently been decorated and both externally and indoors to provide a warm, clean and airy environment.
- The playrooms were clean and well maintained with many openable windows that allowed for natural light and ventilation.
- The playrooms were furnished with child sized chairs and tables that were clean and in a good state of repair. The 6 highchairs were clean and well maintained.
- There were many open display units both low and tall which displayed the wide range of play materials that were accessible to the children and prompted engagement.
- The baby room was equipped with age-appropriate toys and stimulating activities such as sound making and sensory equipment, pull along apparatus to encourage mobility and soft toys for comfort.
- The toddler room provided additional arts and crafts, chalk boards and sand play.
- The pre-school room offered the older children a wide range of play opportunities such as the shop, home corner and construction areas. A wide range of associated utensils were available to enhance the imaginative and pretend play opportunities.
- The room had a generous display of books within a soft seating area to encourage the children to sit and browse the selection of books and promote literacy.
- Additional tabletop activities such as jigsaws, matching games and peg boards were stored in the kitchen dining room for the children to enjoy whilst awaiting lunches.
- The outdoor playground had 2 separate playgrounds to accommodate both the older and younger children. The baby's area had child safety matting in place for their comfort.
- There was a large shed which provided an outdoor playroom that the children could enjoy in the wetter weather.
- On the day of the inspection the children were largely occupied in the outdoor play area, seen enjoying the many gross motor skill activities such as the ride on toys, low slides, playhouses, balls and hoops. The younger children were observed enjoying water and sand play.

### Supporting Relations around the Children

- The staff members were observed to be kind, patient and caring to each child, for example during facilitation of meals and personal care and one-to-one tabletop activities.
- Only low tones were used during communication with the children.
- Children's needs were readily addressed, for example the need for sun protection ointments and hats prior to being taken to the outdoor play garden.
- Home liaison books were maintained for the children attending the service under the age of 2 years. Relevant information in respect of their toileting, diet and rest periods were recorded and provided to parents and guardians.
- The service also operated a digital group application for parents to receive notices regarding the service.

### Implementation of Programme of Care.

- It was reported by the manager as the children were attending during the summer holidays a more relaxed and flexible programme was in place which encompassed the children's emergent interests.
- It was evident that the timetable offered ample time for free play, outdoor play, meals, rest and relaxation.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

- The parents and guardians supplied their children with their food and drink items.
- All food items were stored in the large fridge situated in the kitchen diner area.
- Each child had access to their own labelled water bottle and were seen helping themselves to drink when thirsty.
- Plates and cutlery were available to the children as required.
- A healthy eating policy was in place which was adhered to as observed from lunches eaten.
- The children were observed eating healthy and nutritious lunches such as sandwiches, cold meats and cheeses, rolls, savoury wraps, seasonal fruits such as strawberries, yogurts, rice cakes and chopped vegetables.

## 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:

- Rainbow Childcare was secured so that a child could not leave the premises unsupervised as the front door was secured.
- Unauthorised was restricted.
- Internal doors were suitably secured to ensure that the children could not access storage areas or the adult toilet facility.
- Emergency exits were unobstructed.
- Staff members personal belongings were store out of reach of the children.
- Play materials were found to be in a satisfactory state of repair with no pinch points or sharp edges.
- Cables and flexes were not accessible to the children.
- Highchair harnesses were in good condition.
- Although the children had access to the kitchen, hazards such as knives were not accessible to the children as child locks had been installed.
- The washing machine had a child safety catch applied.
- The children did not have access to nappy sacks.
- Openable windows were not accessible to the children and roller blinds had inconspicuous cords out of reach of the children.
- There were no low glazed units.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained.
- Sanitising units were placed out of reach of the children for adult use.
- Good hand washing practise were observed with children washing hands after using the toilets, after messy play and prior to lunch.
- The children had access to 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins that was installed at child height.
- Liquid soap, and paper towels were available for hand washing purposes and strategically places hand washing posters were visible to the children to prompt the correct hand washing technique.

- Training pots were available as required.
- Although the water temperature was not tested, it was found to be thermostatically controlled and not dangerously hot.
- Adults had a separate toilet and wash hand basin.
- There was 1 bespoke nappy changing unit with a changing mat which was clean and well maintained.
- Cubby space was available for the storage of the children's individually labelled toiletries and nappy supplies.
- A non-contact bin was available for the storage of used nappies.
- Protective gloves and single use aprons were available to the staff members.
- Non-contact pedal bins were situated throughout the service.
- Tissues were available to the children for nasal hygiene.

### Administration of Medication:

- It was reported that the staff members were familiar with the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a child requiring medications.
- There were currently no children attending the service that required medications.

### Safe Sleep:

- The service provided a separate sleep room which had a cool air ambience and curtains to provide dimness. An air filter and fans were in place for use as required.
- The room was furnished with 2 standard cots that were suitably spaced and away from fall hazards such as the window ledge.
- The cots had well fitted mattresses.
- Clean bedding and cellular blankets were observed in readiness for children sleep time.
- It was reported that only single use bedding was used, after which, it was laundered daily on the premises.
- Historical sleep records were reviewed and found to be correctly maintained; detailing 10-minute physical checks observing the child's position, colour and breathing.
- Stackable beds with linen were available to the children that required a sleep over the age of 2 years.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire door was unobstructed.
- Fire cylinders were tethered to the walls.

- In conversation with the person in charge it was reported that staff were familiar with the procedures that are required to be followed in the event of a fire

**Outing:**

- The manager reported that the service did not conduct outings.

**Non-Compliance Information**

**General Safety:**

1. The drains in the outdoor play areas were not suitably covered with a well fitted grid posing a risk of a child tripping.

**Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**General Safety:**

The manager stated that the drain covers have been replaced by a tradesman to ensure the children's safety.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

A photograph of the new drain covers was submitted, they were reviewed and found to be satisfactory.

**Summary Comment**

The requirements have been met.

## 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)

Records informed that 4 adults had completed first aid responder training (FAR) with expiry dates ranging from September 2023 to October 2023.

(2)(a) & (b)

The service had a well-stocked first aid box containing the required requisites. It was stored on a high shelf in the kitchen. Medicines were stored on a wall mounted cabinet, they were examined and found to be in date.

### 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 firefighting 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 record of monthly fire drills was maintained. The most recent fire drill had taken place on the 29 June 2022. It was recorded that there was a total of 17 children present with 4 adults supervising.

(b)

The service maintained a written record of the number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the setting. The most recent service had taken place on 09 September 2022.

(4)

A fire evacuation plan was displayed in each playroom and in the hallway.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An up-to-date insurance certificate was displayed to indicate that up to 22 children were insured to attend the service on a full day care basis.

The expiry date was the 27 March 2024