

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN050
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Name of Service:	Rainbow Kids Ltd
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Address of Service:	Kill Community Centre, Tullyvin, Cootehill, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	H16 XE02
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Name of Registered Provider:	Colette Carmichael
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No 18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Rainbow Kids Ltd has been operating as a community-based childcare service since May 1977. The service provides a sessional service to pre-school children aged 3 – 6 years. The service operates from 09:00 -12:30hrs each weekday and caters for a maximum of 22 pre-school children.

The service is conducted from a single-storey community centre located in a rural area of Tullyvin Co Cavan. The service currently has 1 care room, sanitary facilities an office and a separate kitchen are also provided in the service. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the front of the premises and the children also have access to the community hall.

Staffing

There were 6 staff employed in the service, 5 employed to work directly with the children and 1 in administrative duties.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 20, 25, 28.

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 co-operation of the deputy 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

(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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a system in place to designate a named deputy person to deputise as required. The deputy person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.

There were 6 staff files presented for inspection.

(2)(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all 4 members of staff.
- Two staff had 2 written references.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 6 staff members and the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as following a review of the staff files presented on the day of inspection, international police vetting was not required as none of the staff members had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that 4 out of the 5 members of staff who worked directly with the pre-school children held at least the minimum required level 5 Childcare Qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) One member of staff who did not have documentary evidence of having a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification was observed working directly with the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

This employee no longer works directly with the children. We have recruited a new Early Years Educator to work in this role directly with the children.

Going forward we will require to see the course completion certificate prior to any individual commencing employment.

We have also reviewed our Equal Opportunities Recruitment Policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence and copy of policy.

Summary Comment

The Inspector has reviewed the registered provider's response and it is accepted. The non-compliance has been adequately addressed.

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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the early years' service.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were correct.
- The following adult to child ratios were observed on arrival of the inspector on the day of inspection:
In the Preschool Room there were 10 children aged between 3 – 5 years being cared for by 3 staff members.

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

- There was 1 care room in operation on the day of the inspection: the Preschool Room.
- (1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:
- BASIC NEEDS:**
- Lunches were brought in by the children and stored appropriately in the fridge and the children had access to their drinks.

- All children were toilet trained and were encouraged to be independent with toileting. Discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were given to the children after toileting and the children were encouraged to “flush and wash”.
- A child who had a toileting accident was assisted to change their clothes immediately.
- The children had free movement in the care room and also a change of environment to the outside area and adjoining hall area.
- One child whom the staff recognised as displaying signs of tiredness was offered the opportunity to lie down and rest in the comfortable area on a number of times.

Supporting relationship around children

- Communication between the parents and staff was informally at drop off and pick-up. The staff also confirmed that a messaging app was used to communicate with and to share information with parents.
- The staff members in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children and staff members and the children were observed to actively seek out staff members.
- Transitions between activities were smooth.

Physical and Material Environment

- A variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment were available in the care room on low level shelving which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the children.
- There were resourced defined interest areas such as the home corner, messy area with sand, water trays, art supplies and painting easel, role play area, a construction/ work bench area, a table top farm area, books and an abundance of push and pull toys.

Programme Of Activities.

- A detailed care plan was available for a child with an additional medical need.
- Evidence of daily, long and short-term planning were on display outside the room and staff advised that scrapbooks would be commenced on each child as the year progressed with observations and samples of artwork so that parents could see some of the activities that the children engaged in during their day at preschool.
- Free painting artwork was on display.

- A jobs board was in operation in the room where different children were allocated jobs for the week such as helping to give out the lunches, doing the letter of the week and helping to clean the table tops.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) There was a soft area in the room which consisted of a wooden bench with fabric covered cushions, a floor mat which could be laid out and a box of soft cuddly toys where a child could sit, lie and relax or take a break from an activity.

(3)(a) There was an outdoor area to the front of the premises which was paved. There was a sand pit, planting boxes, a small table and chair, large wooden spools, small outdoor kitchen and a number of ride-on toys. The large hall doors were opened and the children could ride in and out of the hall and play football in there too.

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) On review of the documentation and First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates available - there were 3 First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates and a person trained with FAR available in the service at all times.

(2)(a) and (b) There was a first aid box available in the service which was accessible to the children at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance cover in place to cover up to a maximum of 22 children which expires on the 27/3/25.