

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR099
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Name of Service:	Rainbow Day Care Centre
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Address of Service:	Kellystown Rd, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 T221
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Name of Registered Provider:	Valerie O'Reilly
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	33
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Duff H. Sutherland
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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 Daycare Centre is a private childcare service which was established in 1991. Full day care and sessional care is provided for pre-school children aged 1-6 years of age; care is also provided for school-aged children. The hours of operation are between 7.45am and 5.45pm; the sessional service operates between 9am and 12.30pm. The service operates from four purpose-built structures located adjacent to the registered provider's domestic dwelling in a rural area of south county Dublin. Care is delivered across five rooms and there is a dedicated cot room located within the baby room. There are three separate outdoor spaces available to children on the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 13 staff members including the registered provider. The registered provider works in the service. On the day of inspection 9 staff members were working directly with the children.

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

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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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 18 March 2026 during the inspection in respect of Regulation 23, general safety. A response was received from the service on the 18 March 2026 which sufficiently mitigated the risk identified.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required, the person named to deputise was on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The inspection included a review of the required documentation for three staff members employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 21 May 2024. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the 13 staff members employed. The following documentation was available;

(a)(b) Of the six written and validated references that were required, four were available from a past employer.

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(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for 13 staff members. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed to determine compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Records were available evidencing that three staff members employed in the service since the last inspection dated 21 May 2024 who were employed to work directly with the children held at least the required award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b)

Although it is acknowledged that two references for one adult were available, they had not been verified prior to them commencing employment in the service.

(3)

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) (a)(b) were not carried out prior to one adult commencing employment in the service as follows:

Two verified references for one adult were not in place prior to them commencing employment in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated that two written and validated references have been obtained for the staff member and are on file. The registered provider will ensure all staff files are kept up to date in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on next inspection.

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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.

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 and part time services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 43 children attending the service being supervised by 9 staff members on the morning of the inspection and 33 children attending the service being supervised by 7 staff members on the afternoon of the inspection.

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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.*

Compliance Information

1) The records of 10 children who were attending the service were reviewed and contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each 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 numbers of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner was available.
- (h) Record of immunisations received by the child was detailed.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

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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.

Compliance Information

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection. Staff members were attentive and responsive to the needs of the children throughout the day and were observed to respond to children in a calm and relaxed manner throughout the inspection. Individual daily reports were kept throughout the day to give to parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to new activities and to alert them of mealtimes. The service provides all food for children. Mealtimes were social occasions with children and adults observed to sit together. Younger children were observed to feed themselves, with staff providing support when required. Bibs were provided to protect younger children's clothing while eating their meals. Drinking water was available within the care rooms and children were encouraged to drink water regularly.

Nappy changes for younger children were carried out on a schedule, and staff were observed to promptly respond to children requiring a nappy change outside of the scheduled times. During this time, staff talked to children, supporting them to feel safe and secure. Older children were observed to use the toilet independently, and staff were available to provide support if required.

Children were encouraged to clean up after themselves and assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times.

Younger children in the baby room had two sleeps according to their individual needs and older babies, and children in wobbler and toddler rooms were placed to sleep as part of the room routine. The sleep rooms were calm and conducive to sleep. Children who had soothers were offered them when they were being placed to sleep. Areas were provided within all rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities.

The three outdoor areas were equipped with toys and materials to support play experiences. Children were observed to use the outdoor areas regularly throughout the day 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:

- When the inspectors arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was enclosed, restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- The children and staff members washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection
- The indoor and outdoor environments were maintained in a clean condition.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were familiar with safe sleep guidelines. Sleep logs were recorded in the dedicated sleep rooms and care rooms where children slept. Children's individual observations included room temperature, breathing, colour, and position which were recorded every 10 minutes. Children slept in standard cots and low-level beds in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire and evacuation procedures were on display in the care rooms and corridors.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- In the Montessori 3 room, cleaning products to include dishwasher tablets were stored in a low unlocked press which was accessible to children. A child was observed to open the press independently to get some paper towel which was stored next to the cleaning products. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 18 March 2026 during the inspection. A response was received from the service on the 18 March 2026 which sufficiently mitigated the risk identified.

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2. In the Montessori 3 room a television was stored on a low shelf in reach of the children. The television was unsecured posing a risk of injury to a child if it fell over.
3. In the Montessori 2 room an electrical cable was hanging from a television which was in reach of the children. This posed a potential risk of injury to a child if they accessed it.
4. In the upper playground, three broken plastic children's spades were observed on the ground. The spades were cracked and sharp with pieces missing. This poses a risk to children who could injure themselves with them.

Infection Control:

5. In the Montessori 1 room the toilet tissue used by the children was not stored in a dispenser or on a holder, the toilet tissue was observed to be left on top of the water heater and on the sink, this poses a risk of cross contamination to children.

Administration of Medication:

6. Procedures to safeguard children when administering some medications were not available for review, the following was observed on inspection
 - Care plans were not available for two children who required regular medication.
 - An asthma inhaler had been administered to a child however a written pre-consent form had not been sought, in addition an administration of medication record had not been filled out and shared with a parent or guardian following administration of the inhaler. This was at variance with the administration of medicine policy in the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider has stated:

1. The dishwasher tablets have been removed from the press and will be stored on a high shelf in the future. This press only contains arts and crafts materials now.
2. The television has been removed from Montessori 3 room as it is seldom used.
3. The television has been removed from Montessori 2 room as it is seldom used.
4. The spades for use by the children have been replaced by new spades.

Infection Control:

5. A new toilet roll holder in Montessori 1 has been installed.

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Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication procedure has been reviewed by all staff and any child who requires an inhaler will have a form filled in by the parent in advance. Asthma care plans have been developed for each child requiring an inhaler and plans are now displayed on the classroom wall.

Training on the administration of medication policy has been delivered to all staff during the last meeting to explain the importance of all medicine administered being recorded.

Staff are aware that a medicine administration form must be always filled out for a child receiving an inhaler.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Infection Control:

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Administration of Medication:

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on next inspection.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,

Non-Compliance Information

(d) Throughout the premises, areas of the building were found not to be maintained and repaired as required posing a potential risk of injury to a child.

1. In the sanitary area in the Montessori 1 room, pipes and electrical cables were exposed and accessible to children. The pipes and cables were connected to a water heater. A laminated page was taped to the top of the heater to restrict children's access to the controls; however, the controls were still accessible to children. In addition, there was no hot water available in this sanitary area on the day of inspection.
2. In the Montessori 1 room, the toilet seat was loose and falling off, staff confirmed it is tightened regularly but continuously becomes loose.
3. In the Montessori 3 room a safety protective cover was missing from a ceiling light.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated:

1. The water heater in Montessori 1 has been removed and relocated to the press under the sink in the kitchen area where it is better located to heat the water for Montessori 1, 2 and the kitchen area. The area of the wall where wires were visible through a gap has been repaired by the carpenter with a wooden panel.
2. The toilet washers were used to tighten the toilet seat to avoid future loosening.
3. New protective cover has been fitted to the light in the Montessori 3 room

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation in the form of photographs have been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector for points 1 and 3 above.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on next inspection.