

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DY124 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Little Rainbows |
|-------------------------|-----------------|

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 1 Holywell Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin |
|----------------------------|--|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | D13 PH95 |
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|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Monica Campbell |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 17/05/2023 |
|----------------------------|------------|

|                                   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 67 | PM | 59 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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|---|---|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Child and Family Agency,<br>Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A,<br>Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E Hosford and M Foley   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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).

|                                 |                 |
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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|

### Description of service

Little Rainbows is a private service located in an urban area on the north side of Dublin city. The service provides sessional and full day care services to children aged from 1 to 5 years of age and operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and provides a school age service.

The service has six care rooms, four in the main building, Junior Wobbler (1-2 years), Senior Wobbler (22 months to 3 years), Toddler room (2-3 years), Montessori Pre School (3-5 years) and two care rooms in a prefabricated building to the rear of the service, Small Pre School and Big Pre School (3-5 years). One separate sleep room for children under the age of two years is available adjacent to the Junior Wobbler room and two enclosed outdoor areas are available to the front of the service and one to the rear.

### Staffing

The service employs a total of 23 staff to include the registered provider, two designated people in charge, a cook, a cleaner and 18 childcare staff. On the day of the inspection there were 12 staff working with 67 children in the morning and 12 staff working with 59 children in the afternoon. One staff member is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM).

The registered provider does not work within the service and the two designated people in charge are not assigned to a care room but are available to assist if required.

### 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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

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

Regulation 16 Record in relation to Pre-School Service (h)(i)(j)(k)

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)(2)(a)(b)

and Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures (1)(2)(a)(b)(4).

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

16 Record in relation to Pre School children,

19 Health, Welfare and Development of child,

21 Equipment and materials,

23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels was assessed across all the 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 two people 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.

(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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The two designated people in charge were on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced and were present for the duration of the inspection.

(2) The files of 23 employees employed within the service were reviewed under Regulation 9 Management and recruitment.

(a) The following references were available from a past employer.

- Two validated written references for 8 staff members.

- One validated written reference for 12 staff members.

(b) The following references were from a source other than a past employer.

- Two validated written references for 3 staff members.
- One validated written reference for 12 staff members.

(2)(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 23 employees.

(d) International police vetting was available from 6 countries in respect of 5 staff members who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that 22 staff members employed within the service had evidence to confirm they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 12 staff working with 67 children on the morning of the inspection and 12 staff working with 59 children on the afternoon of the inspection.

(2) It was observed that the correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as the table below demonstrates.

| Room and age profile of children      | Morning<br>Staff: Children | Afternoon<br>Staff: Children |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Junior Wobbler<br>(1-2 years)         | 2:7                        | 2:7                          |
| Senior Wobbler<br>(22 months-3 years) | 2:8                        | 2:6                          |
| Toddler room<br>(2-3 years)           | 2:12                       | 2:12                         |
| Montessori Pre School<br>(3-5 years)  | 2:14                       | 2:9                          |
| Small Pre School<br>(3-5 years)       | 1:7                        | 1:7                          |
| Big Pre School<br>(3-5 years)         | 3:19                       | 3:18                         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>12:67</b>               | <b>12:59</b>                 |

\*\* Calculated as per Schedule 6 Adult: Child Ratios Part 1.

(8)(a) The staff roster available demonstrated that two adults were on the premises during the operation of the service.

### 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:

- (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

(h) The arrival and departure time of each child was recorded in the daily attendance record maintained by staff in each care room.

(i) The staff roster available adequately reflected the staff present on the day of inspection.

(k) On review of 14 accident and incident records it was observed that all the forms had the required information documented.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(j) On review of nine administration of medication records the following was observed.

- The dosage of medication administered was not recorded on one form.
- The full name of the two staff members that administered and witnessed the administration were not recorded on two forms.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(j) Staff were re-trained on how to complete the Medicine forms, highlighting

- The importance of writing forenames and surnames for both staff and children on any official paperwork.
- The importance of recording the amount of medicine administered.

Management will also ensure all staff re-read the medicine policy and will display an example of a filled-out medicine form for staff to refer too. Managers will continue to monitor the medicine forms, ensuring all the correct details are recorded.

## Supporting documentation submitted

(j) Signed names of re-reading the medicine policy

Example of the filled-out medication form, staff can refer too.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified.

## 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

(1)(a)

### Basic Needs:

- Staff were observed caring for the children in a calm and friendly manner with attention given to their individual needs and preferences.
- Each care room spent time in the outdoor area and for extended times throughout the day.
- Rest areas were provided in the care rooms to enable the children to rest and relax throughout the day. The children had the space and freedom to move throughout the rooms and actively engage with the play materials and areas of interest.
- The transition between activities was observed to be organised and managed with a child centred approach with the children been given clear instructions and guidance from staff.
- Children from the Toddler room that did not sleep were accommodated in the Senior Wobbler room and returned to their care room after sleep time.

### Supporting Relationships:

- Each child's daily activities, meals, sleeps, and nappy changes were recorded by staff and communicated to parents at drop off and collection.
- The children were familiar with the daily routine of the service with consistent and scheduled activities planned and undertaken by the staff. Additional staff were available to offer the children the opportunity to engage in small group play and games.
- Staff encouraged the children to interact with each other in a calm and friendly manner while emphasising turn taking and sharing.

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

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The care rooms were laid out with consideration for the age and interests of the children in attendance. For example:

In the Junior Wobbler room and Toddler room,

- There was an adequate number of age-appropriate toys and equipment easily identifiable and accessible to the children. Areas of interest included a well-equipped home area with a rest and relaxation space included with a small library area. The Junior Wobbler room had a colourful soft ball pool area with wipe clean shapes to support safe climbing and exploration and a low wall mounted mirror to support play and recognition.
- Open shelving area with bricks, blocks, abacuses, a wooden ark with associated shapes, and several tabletop activity centres.
- The tables and chairs were of the appropriate size with highchairs available for younger children.

In the Montessori Pre School and the Big and Small Pre School room,

- The rooms were bright, well-ventilated, and equipped with an adequate number of tables, chairs, toys, and materials to meet the needs of the children.
- The children had time throughout the day to follow their own preferences for free play and participate in well prepared activities such as painting paper parrots. Toys and equipment in use on the day of inspection included pinch and grip activities such as peg boards, magnetic boards, wooden counter trays, wooden puzzles with associated shapes and colours, transferring trays with dried pasta, rice, flour, and water. Counting and colouring was incorporated into each activity and staff sat with and supported the children while chatting about the activity.
- In the Small Preschool room preparation was underway for the children’s upcoming tour to a farm. The theme was “The Farm”, with cards made by the children with paper farm animals on display. The children had previously painted a cardboard cow which was placed in the newly constructed farm area where two cardboard pigs were housed. Other farm animal photos were placed on the display area.
- Other areas of interest included a rest and relaxation area, library area, construction area and a home area.
- The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe and secure and was covered with a green all-weather surface. The fencing, the surface, toys, and equipment were in good repair.
- The children could engage with a wooden house and a tall activity centre which had a ladder, a short climbing wall and a yellow tunnel from the platform. This area was enjoyed and popular with the children. Staff members were observed to provide supervision and support as needed.
- There was a low covered tunnel and the children enjoyed climbing through it.
- A free-standing sand box with sand enabled the children to pour, dig and scoop with the supporting toys available.
- There were four animal shaped wall mounted blackboards with chalk provided, which the children used for drawing. Staff were observed facilitating a game of touch the lion and elephant blackboards for some of the children.
- Equipment was stored on open and accessible shelving which the children could easily access, and they were observed creating buildings and steppingstones with large plastic outdoor click together shapes set.
- Activities that encouraged gross motor activities such as ride on bicycles, a rocker and colourful balancing beams were ready for use and used for walking and as seating by the children.

### 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 external door to the service was locked with access to authorised adults supervised by staff. This prevented the exit of an unsupervised child and an unauthorised adult from entering.
- Cleaning materials used by the staff were stored out of children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap and paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the sanitary facilities used by the children.
- The nappy changing procedure was completed as per best practice guidelines and the service policy.
- The children in the Junior Wobbler room, Toddler room and Montessori Pre School washed their hands before lunch, after outdoor play and after using the sanitary facilities.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff maintained ten-minute visual checks on all children that slept in the service and recorded their colour, breathing, position and the temperature of the care rooms.
- Excess clothing was removed from children in the Toddler room during sleep time due to the temperature of the care room measuring over 21 °C.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. A flex from a free-standing air-conditioning unit was accessible to the children in the Toddler room.

##### Infection Control:

2. Staff in the Toddler room did not ensure that soothers were cleaned, and stored securely after use, as it was observed that soothers were left on the tables in the care room.
3. The sanitary facilities in the Big and Small Pre School rooms did not have warm water to facilitate effective handwashing for the staff and children.
4. While children in the Toddler room slept it was observed that four sleep mats were not positioned with the recommended 50cms apart.
5. The bin for disposal of wastepaper in the Toddler room was not pedal operated and as a result the children touched the lid when disposing of items.

### Safe Sleep:

- The temperature of the Toddler room while children slept was recorded as 21.9°C at 12:11pm as children slept. This exceeds the recommended temperature of 16-20°C.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

- The flex is now out of reach from the children. Staff were informed to ensure the flex is always behind the air- conditioning unit out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

- Staff have been given a copy of our soother sterilisation procedure to read and were reminded that:
  - Soothers must be placed back into each child's compartment in the soother box straight away as children are finished using them and not to be left lying around the room.
  - Soothers must be sterilised as needed and at the end of each day for the day ahead.

Managers will also display the soother sterilisation procedure in each of the classrooms and add the step to their cleaning sheets to ensure its being followed through.
- A sign has been placed by the switch to remind and ensure staff to check the switch remains on. The electric storage water heater will keep the water at the correct temperature to facilitate effective handwashing for both staff and children.
- The beds in the Toddler Room have been repositioned to ensure that a 50 cm gap is between the beds to ensure staff can walk around them easily. Core staff and cover staff have been made aware that each of the beds must be 50cm ahead. A classroom map of the beds has been drawn up, so that core staff and cover staff are aware of where each child's bed goes, ensuring that they are placed with enough space between them.
- A pedal bin has been placed in the toddler room to prevent toddlers having to touch the lid. Staff will help toddlers to learn how to use the pedal bin and assist them where needed.

### Safe Sleep:

- If the temperature goes above the room temperature guidelines 16-20°C. Staff will switch on the air-conditioning unit to bring the temperature down. Management has drawn up a room temperature check sheet, so that staff are reminded to monitor temperatures and keep a record.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

- Photo evidence of the air-conditioning flex being placed out of reach of the children.

#### Infection Control:

- Signed copy of the soother sterilisation procedure.
- Corrective action has addressed non-compliance.
- Copy of the classroom map.
- Photo evidence of the pedal bin

#### Safe Sleep:

- Copy of the temperature record sheet.

### Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified.

## 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 an adequate number of staff held First Aid Responder (FAR) certification training.

(2) Well-equipped first aid boxes were available to the children attending the service.

(a) The first aid boxes were stored in an accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.

## 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill that took place was the 13 April 2023.

(b) A record was available for the number, type and maintenance of the fire equipment which were last serviced in May 2022 and the smoke alarms on the 21 March 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the entrance door of the service.