

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY124
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Name of Service:	Little Rainbows
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Address of Service:	1 Holywell Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Monica Campbell
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	23/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	72	PM	47
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne & E Hosford
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

Little Rainbows is a private service located in Dublin 13. The service provides sessional and full day care services to children aged from 1 to 6 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 to 2 years), Senior Wobbler (2 to 3 years), Toddler room (2-3 years), Montessori Pre School (2 years 8 months to 5 years) and two care rooms in a prefabricated building to the rear of the service, Small Pre School and Big Pre School (2 years 8 months to 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 registered provider does not work directly within in the service and employs 26 staff to include the person in charge, deputy person in charge, a cleaner, cook and 22 childcare staff.

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, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 26.

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record of a Preschool Child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

The scope of the inspection included the Junior Wobbler, Senior Wobbler, Toddler, Small Preschool and Big Preschool rooms and did not include the Montessori Preschool 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.

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 registered provider, person in charge, 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
- (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) The registered provider ensured that-

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) The designated person in charge or the named person was always on the premises.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2) Twenty-seven staff files were reviewed to include that of the registered provider, person in charge, deputy person in charge, 22 childcare staff, a cook and a cleaner.

(a) Forty written and validated references were available from a past employer.

- (b) Fourteen written and validated references were available from a source other than past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 27 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for nine adults who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Documentation was available to show that 25 adults who worked 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.

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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection there were 14 adults working directly with 72 children aged between 1 to 6 years and in the afternoon of the inspection there were 12 adults working with 47 children aged from 1 to 6 years.
 - (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times.
- Junior Wobbler Room:** 2 adults caring for 7 children aged between 1-2 years in the morning and afternoon.

Senior Wobbler Room: 2 adults caring for 8 children aged between 2-3 years in the morning and 7 children in the afternoon.

Toddler Room: 2 adults caring for 9 children aged between 2-3 years in the morning and afternoon.

Montessori (Preschool) Room: 3 adults caring for 20 children aged between 2 years 8 months - 5 years in the morning and 2 adults caring for 4 children in the afternoon.

Big Preschool Room: 3 adults caring for 18 children aged between 2 years 8 months - 5 years in the morning and 2 adults caring for 13 children in the afternoon.

Small Preschool Room: 1 adult caring for 10 children aged between 2 years 8 months - 5 years in the morning and 1 adult caring for 7 children in the afternoon.

The person in charge, deputy person in charge and one floating staff member were present and available in a supernumerary role to support for food preparation, nappy changes and breaks.

(8)(a) On review of the service roster it was confirmed that two adults were present on the premises at all times.

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.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) On review of the documentation available in the care rooms each children's arrival and departure was recorded accurately by staff. This assisted in the safe evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.

- (i) A service roster was available, and it demonstrated the staff present in the service and their contracted working hours.
- (j) Details of 15 medication administered records were reviewed and the required information was recorded.
- (k) Details of 15 accident and incident records were reviewed, and the required information was recorded.
- (3) The required records were available to the inspectors during the inspection.

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

Basic Needs:

- The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children. The inspector observed a hot meal served at 11.15am in the care rooms of chicken stew with mashed potatoes and at 2.00pm, an afternoon tea of tomato and basil pasta was served. Children attending the ECCE scheme had an option to bring their own lunch or eat the food provided by the service. Water was available in each care room for the children to drink. Additional food was available to the children if required.
- Transitions to sleep were observed to be calm and organised with children familiar with their routine and settled to sleep in a calm environment. Staff were available to comfort and soothe children when required
- Children in each room were observed to enjoy outdoor play during the inspection for extended periods.

Supporting Relationships:

- Staff were observed to have respectful and responsive interactions with the children through the use of soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies such as being at the children's level.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.
- Communication with parents for children in the junior and senior Wobbler rooms and the Toddler room was through daily day sheets with information about each child's day about food, nappy changes and sleep, and for all children verbal updates at pick up time and through a message application on a phone.

Physical and Material Environment

- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Toys and materials were accessible and displayed on shelving which

allowed children to access them freely. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.

- Child sized furniture supported children’s independence.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor play environments to the front and rear of the premises were fully enclosed, the surface was soft artificial grass. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included a climbing frame with slide, water / sandpits, see saw, ride on cars, blackboards and playhouse.

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:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- No trailing flexes were observed in the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- Blind cords restricted and not accessible to children
- The outdoor areas were safe and secure environments with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after nappy changing, after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before and after mealtimes.
- All mattresses used in the cots had washable wipeable covers present.

- During sleep time, cots and low floor mats were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under two years of age, were facilitated with access to cots for sleep and the sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of low floor mats.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed on the children for colour, breathing, position while children slept.
- The temperatures of the cot room and care rooms were documented and maintained between the recommended temperatures of 18-22 °C while children over 1 years old slept.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Lunches brought from home by children in the Big Preschool room were not refrigerated on arrival to the service, leading to a risk of spoiling of perishable items.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A fridge was purchased for the big preschool room so that the children's lunches can be kept chilled during the day. Managers will ensure that the big pre-school room always has a working fridge and that the children's lunches are always placed in the fridge.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Receipt for purchase of Fridge.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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 service provided evidence that three adults were trained in First Aid Response and were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the care rooms.

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 took place on 26 August 2025.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the premises demonstrating they were last serviced on 13 May 2025 and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises, demonstrating they were last serviced on 30 July 2025.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

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, and*

Non - Compliance Information

(d) The floor in the Small preschool room outside of the sanitary facility was unstable, dipping and uneven, leading to a trip risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) The floor in the Small preschool room outside of the sanitary facility was patch repaired to remove any potential trip hazards in advance of a larger renovation of the unit containing the small and big preschool rooms over the coming weeks.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d) None

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed. It will be reviewed on next inspection.