

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY175
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Name of Service:	Rainbow Community Playgroup
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Address of Service:	28 Stoneybatter, Stoneybatter, Dublin 7
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Eircode:	D07 DKN8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Glancy
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	25/03/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	L Jameson
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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

Description of service

Rainbow Community Playgroup is a community run service located in Dublin 7. The service operates a part time service from 8:45am-12:45pm and a sessional service from 1pm-4pm, Monday to Friday. The service is comprised of a large care room, an office, and sanitary facilities. A secure outdoor area is available to the rear of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs three adults to work directly with the children, including the person in charge and two early years practitioners. The registered provider does not work in the service. On the day of inspection, the person in charge and two early years practitioners were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 and Regulation 16.

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 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.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) Conversation with the designated person in charge showed that the registered provider currently employs 3 adults to work in the service. The full staff records of three adults were reviewed

- (a) There were three written and verified references available from past employers.
- (b) There were three written and verified references available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2)(a),(b) and (c) were carried out in relation to three adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Three adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) Police vetting was not available for one staff member in respect of one country that they had lived in other than Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

An application for police vetting has been made for one staff member in relation to one country they have lived in for longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult. Management have updated the service's garda vetting policy to include international police vetting where required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation has been reviewed in relation to the above.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

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) There was a sufficient number of staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection.
There were three staff members working with sixteen children in the morning.

(2) The adult child ratios were maintained for the duration of the inspection.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 10 records in relation to the preschool children currently attending the service were checked.
- (a) The name and date of birth of the child was recorded on all 10 record forms.
 - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service was recorded on all 10 record forms.
 - (c) A space was provided on the form to record the date that the child left the service however it was not applicable as the record forms checked related only to the children attending the service.
 - (d) The name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service was available on all 10 record forms.
 - (e) Authorisation for the collection of the child was available on all 10 record forms.
 - (f) Details of any illness, disability, allergy, or special need of the child, was available on all 10 record forms.

- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner was available on all 10 record forms.
 - (h) A record of immunisations, if any, received by the child was available on all 10 record forms.
 - (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency was available on all 10 record forms.
- (3) Records in relation to the preschool children were made available to the inspector on the day of inspection.

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:

(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

Compliance Information

(g) The following 16 policies, procedures and statements were available within the service;

- Statement of purpose and function
- Complaints policy
- Policy on the administration of medication
- Policy on infection control
- Policy on managing behaviour
- Fire safety policy
- Inclusion policy
- Policy on outings
- Policy on accidents and incidents
- Authorisation to collect children
- Policy on healthy eating
- Outdoor play policy

- Staff absence policy
- Use of the internet and photographic and recording devices
- Recruitment policy
- Settling in policy
- Staff training policy
- Staff supervision policy
- Policy on safe sleep

Non-Compliance Information

(g) The following policy was not available within the service on the day of inspection;

- Risk management

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A risk management policy has been developed and added to the service's policies and procedures folder.

Management have notified staff members and will review, update and develop new policies where necessary.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 16.

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

(1)(b) The following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:

- The children were encouraged to follow their own interests. Staff members promoted independence and decision making, offering support to the children when required. Staff members played with and supported the children during activities.
- Staff members were observed to use positive and respectful language on the day of inspection, acknowledging the children's achievements with praise and recognition.
- Staff members were responsive to and knowledgeable about the children's individual needs, likes and dislikes, demonstrating strong relationships and familiarity between staff members and the children. For example, a staff member acknowledged a child was showing signs of unrest during an activity and offered to take them to the garden.
- A birthday chart, a family wall, a daily routine and children's photographs and artwork were displayed throughout the care room, promoting a sense of identity and supporting links between the service and home.
- The children were observed to use the outdoor play area on the day of inspection. Children were supervised by staff members and had the freedom to transition from the care room to the outdoor area as they so wished.
- Staff members offered discreet supervision and guidance to children during toileting and handwashing.
- Through discussion with management, it was stated that the service supplies a morning snack to the children attending. On the day of inspection, children were observed to enjoy their morning snack of fruit and crackers at a time that they chose with some children observed to butter their own crackers, further supporting the children's individual needs and promoting independence.
- Children's individual water beakers were accessible to them throughout the day.

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 registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed:

- Equipment and materials in the care room were in good working order. Materials including jigsaws and puzzles, mark making materials, blocks, magnets, cars, animals, dolls and a selection of books were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences and promoting imaginative play.
- Toys and materials were grouped into defined areas of interest with adequate props and supporting equipment to promote spontaneous play experiences. For example, a home corner including a kitchen, a child sized bed, dress up, dolls and buggies and a shopping cart were available to the children.
- A cosy area was available in the care room to provide children a comfortable place to rest or engage in quiet activities.
- The children had access to a range of sensory activities. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to play with water, sand and modelling dough.
- The children had access to art and craft materials, this was evidenced by the variety of children’s artwork displayed on the walls.
- The outdoor play area provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including gross motor and imaginative play.

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 entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The entrance door was monitored by staff who asked the inspector to sign into the visitor book on arrival to the service.
- The external outdoor play area was secure with surrounding walls, reducing the risk of unauthorised access. Children were observed to be adequately supervised during outdoor play.
- Electrical cables and flexes were adequately secured out of reach of the children.
- Cleaning supplies were stored safely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary area and care room, handwashing was observed before mealtimes, after toileting and activities.
- Windows in the care rooms were observed to be open which allowed for circulation of air and reduced the risk of cross infection.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the care room to allow hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- The premises was observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Anti febrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.
- There was a written emergency medical care plan available detailing information about one child attending the service who may require emergency medication.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of the inspection, fire exits were clear and unobstructed.

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) A person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the FAR training records maintained for 2 staff members and their scheduled attendance in the service's staff roster.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box was:
- (a) safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.
 - (b) available at all times for staff in the case of emergency administration of first aid to children.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

- (e)
- One toilet and sink were available for three staff members who work in the service.
 - Two toilets and one sink were available for 16 children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (e) One sink was available in the children's sanitary facilities for 16 children; an additional sink is required. This was a non-compliance on inspection in 2020 and 2023; the registered provider has previously stated that the sink in the care room is being used as there isn't space for a second sink in the sanitary facilities however this practice presents a risk of cross contamination due to the distance between the two sinks.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff members supervise the children to ensure they wash their hands efficiently. A step and a funnel are also in place in the care room to facilitate handwashing as there is no space for a second wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has not addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 29(e). Regulatory compliance remains outstanding. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.