

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY176
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rainbow Community Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Presentation Primary School, Georges Hill, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D07 YF43
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Laura Glancy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	26/09/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	23	PM	21
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Hosford
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

Rainbow Community Playgroup is a community service which operates from Presentation Primary School, Georges Hill, Dublin 7.

The service provides part time care and education to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age and operates from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday. There are two care rooms, Playgroup 1 which is on the ground floor and Playgroup 2 which is on the second floor of the primary school. Each care room is equipped with sanitary facilities with additional amenities available in the main school. The service has use of an outdoor area to the front of the school, a PE room in the basement and a roof top garden.

### Staffing

The service employs a total of six staff including the registered provider, designated person in charge and four childcare staff. The designated person in charge and three adults were working directly with the children in the two care rooms on the day of inspection.

### 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 21 Equipment and Materials,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,  
and Regulation 25 First Aid (1),(2).

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and regulation 11 Staffing Levels were 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who was available to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced and was available throughout the inspection.
- (2) The staff files of five employees working within the service were reviewed.
- (a) The following references were available from a past employer.
- Two validated written references were available for three staff members.
  - One validated written reference was available for two staff members.
- (b) The following references were from a source other than a past employer.
- One validated written reference was available for two staff members.
- (2)
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for five staff members.
- (d) Documentary evidence available demonstrated that international police vetting was not required as no staff member had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Five 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 four adults working with 23 children aged between 2 to 5 years of age in the morning and four adults with 21 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. The adult child ratios were maintained as follows;

**Playgroup 1:** 2 adults caring for 11 children aged between 2 to 5 years of age.

**Playgroup 2:** 2 adults caring for 12 children aged between 2 to-5 years of age.

(8)(a) Documentation available demonstrated that two adults were on the premises throughout the operation of the service.

### 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

- Each care room was well equipped with materials and equipment to enable the children to explore and develop their interests. Clearly defined areas included a home area with play kitchen, shop, rest area, table and chairs, dolls, buggies, play food, shopping baskets, utensils, dishes, pots, and pans. A construction space with cars, trucks, train tracks and building blocks. Sensory play was available to the children to engage with water and sand trays that contained dolls, plastic animals, spades, buckets, and rakes. Tabletop games of jigsaws, puzzles and games were stored on low level shelving and art supplies of paint, paper, pencils, and crayons were in reach of the children. The furniture provided in the care rooms were low level and age appropriate for the children attending with toys and play materials accessible to the children and stored on low level shelving.
- During the inspection both care rooms used the PE hall which was a spacious area surfaced with wooden flooring and equipped with a climbing frame, obstacle course with mats and hoops, balls, and parachute games.
- The outdoor play area consisted of concrete paving with painted shapes, hopscotch pattern and zig zag lines. A sheltered area was surfaced with artificial grass and equipped with foam wedges and play kitchens.
- The enclosed roof top area was surfaced with soft matting and the children could access sand trays, playhouses, and bikes.
- All materials and equipment in the care rooms and play area were appropriate to the age and development of the child.

### 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 internal and external doors of the service were secured to prevent a child from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent an unauthorised person from entering the building.
- Cleaning and products were stored out of children's reach in the care rooms and sanitary facilities.

##### Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the staff and children in the sanitary facilities. Children were supported and encouraged to wash their hands after outdoor play and after using the toilet.
- The children were provided with a morning snack of fruit and crackers which was served on plates. Food from home was refrigerated on arrival to reduce the potential risk of food growth bacteria.

##### Safe Sleep:

- A suitable rest area was available in each care room should a child choose to take a break from activities and rest. The areas consisted of a child size sofas, stools and floor mats.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The arrival time of each child was not recorded in the care room roll books to ensure the effective and smooth evacuation of children in the event of an emergency. For example.

- At 10.35am in Playgroup 1 room, there were 11 children in the care room, but the daily roll book of attendance was not completed. Staff were made aware of the discrepancy and retrospectively completed the roll.
- At 11.50am in Playgroup 2 room there were 12 children in the care room but only 11 children recorded as being in attendance. Staff were made aware of the discrepancy and retrospectively completed the roll.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that staff now complete the roll book and one adult in the room is now designated to fill the roll book in as children arrive to the service.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. Corrective and preventive action.

#### Summary Comment

The service has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection.

### 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. Five staff currently hold FAR certification.

(2)

(a) and (b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped, accessible and available to the children attending the service.