

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL252
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Name of Service:	Rainbow Montessori Sutton
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Address of Service:	Suttonians Rugby Club, Station Road, Sutton, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D13 AH97
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Considine
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	7
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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:	E Hosford
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.
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Description of service

Rainbow Montessori Sutton is a private service which has been operating from Suttonians Rugby club since 2003. The sessional service operates from a ground floor care room and provides a morning session from 9am-12pm and an afternoon session from 1pm-4pm to children aged from 2-6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children and employs six staff in the service to include a deputy person in charge and five 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 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under 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

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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 registered provider, deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) The files of two new staff employed in the service since the last inspection were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures for all staff were reviewed.

(a) Not applicable as no references were from a past employer.

(b) Four validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for seven staff members employed in the service. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.

(d) International police vetting was not required as documentary evidence available demonstrated that neither staff member had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

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(4) On review of documentation available two employees employed in the service and working directly with the children had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualification.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency

Compliance Information

(1) The correct minimum adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection.

(3) There were 5 adults working with 16 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 5 years of age in the morning session and 3 adults with 7 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 5 years of age in the afternoon.

(8)(c) Not applicable as 7 staff members work directly in the service with the children.

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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;*
- (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) Staff recorded the time of arrival and departure of each child to the service in the roll book.
- (i) A staff roster was available which was reflective of the staff available and working in the service on the day of inspection.
- (k) On review of 13 accident and incident records it was observed that all the forms were completed with the required information.
- (3) The records were open to inspection as requested by the inspector as an authorised person.

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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-

(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:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service with children enjoying a morning snack from home which consisted of fruit, yogurts, cheese and sandwiches. Drinking water was freely available to the children throughout the day while they played in the care room. The staff members sat with the children at snack time encouraging conversations and extending interactions to create a relaxed and sociable environment.
- Staff members were observed to be kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and the atmosphere in the service was warm and child centred.
- The children were observed using the toilet under supervision, with assistance provided by a staff member.
- Children were observed moving freely within the service and taking a break from activities and relaxing in a rest area when required.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The care room was bright and laid out in a variety of designated interest areas to include; arts and craft area (with paper, pencils and crayons), home corner and shop (with play kitchen, dolls, buggies and additional supporting equipment such as; shopping baskets, utensils, dishes, pots and pans), construction area (with cars, trucks, train tracks and building blocks), table top area (jigsaws, books, bead boards and threading games).
- All materials and equipment in the care rooms were appropriate to the age and development of the child. 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.

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- The outdoor play area was enclosed with fencing and the materials available to the children included a play kitchen, large building blocks and games, cars and balance beams.
- Suitable rest areas were available in the room to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day. They consisted of soft mats, cushions and a library

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- The staff members demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences, and frequently initiated conversations with the children, responded meaningfully to their verbal and non-verbal cues and provided regular praise and encouragement using a gentle tone of voice.
- The children were encouraged by the adults to take turns with their friends and share equipment and toys. Children were observed eagerly participating in the preparation for snack time and going outside.
- Staff members were familiar with the children's parents who could speak with staff at drop off and collection. The service engaged with parents via text message and emails which updated them on planned activities, pictures of the children throughout the day and information regarding the service and upcoming events.
- Staff worked well together in supporting the children and were aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding maintaining flexibility with the daily routine to ensure the care was child led.

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 premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people from gaining access to the service.
- The care room was observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents, sharp implements, and flexes out of reach.

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- The water temperature at the two sinks in the care room and in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- Staff maintained a daily record of each child's arrival and departure to the service.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand-washing facilities were available in the care room and sanitary facilities used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins. Children were supported to wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet.
- A refrigerator was available in the service to refrigerate perishable food items from home.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facilities.

Administration of Medication:

- A procedure was in place for the administration of medication to a child if required. Parental pre consent was available for the administration of emergency medication to a child if required. No medication was administered to a child during the inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service. The designated fire exits were illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available for inspection for a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis with an expiry date of 31 August 2026.