

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL252				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rainbow Montessori Sutton				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Suttonians Rugby Club, Station Road, Sutton, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D13 AH97				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Considine				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	04/05/2023				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>20</td> <td>PM</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </table>	AM	20	PM	15
AM	20	PM	15		

<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 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 1-4pm to children aged from 2-6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

### Staffing

The service employs a total of six staff to include the registered provider and five childcare staff, one of whom is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). On the day of inspection, the registered provider and four childcare staff were available and working directly with the children.

### 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 regulations:

9(1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4),

11(1)(2)(8)(c),

16(h)(i)(j)(k)

21, 23,

25(1)(2)(a)(b) and 26(1)(a)(b), (4).

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

16 Record in relation to Pre School children,

23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels was assessed across both the morning and afternoon session.

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 registered provider, 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 to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced and the designated person in charge arrived soon after.

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

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

- One written reference for the registered provider.
- Two validated written references for two staff members.
- One validated written reference for two staff members.

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

- One written reference for the registered provider.

- Two validated written references for one staff member.
- One validated written reference for two staff members.

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

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

(4) Six 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.*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 4 staff working with 20 children in the morning session and 3 staff working with 15 children in the afternoon session.

(3) It was observed that the correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the 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:

- (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.

#### Compliance Information

- (h) The arrival and departure time of each child in the morning session and afternoon session was recorded.
- (i) The staff roster available adequately reflected the staff present in the morning and afternoon of the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(k) On review of 10 accident and incident records it was observed that 8 forms were not completed with the required information. For example.

- Five forms did not include the child’s full name and date of birth.
- Two forms did not include the date of the parents’ signature.
- Five forms did not include the signature of the manager following the incident.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(k) The correct method of filling out the form correctly was discussed with all staff members to include putting in the child’s full name and date of birth. Staff were asked to remind the parent when signing the form to date the form also. The staff have been asked to leave the book out for the manager to sign when an incident happens in the Morning Class if they are not present. The 3 non compliances have been discussed to ensure they do not happen again.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

(k) Corrective action has addressed non-compliance.

#### Summary Comment

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

## 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 room was bright and laid out with well positioned equipment focused primarily on the Montessori method of education. The materials available gave the children the opportunity to independently choose their activities and to work at their own pace. Areas within the room demonstrated the five areas of a Montessori classroom, to include language area (sandpaper letters, movable alphabets, pencils, and paper), sensorial area (Pink Tower, Brown Stairs, Knobbed Cylinders), mathematics (abacus, number rods, number boards, beads and games), cultural studies area (world atlas, maps, different baskets of plastic animals and insects), and practical life area (dressing frames, pouring, and scooping trays).

Tables and chairs were available throughout the sessions to enable the children to work and play independently. A rest area was accessible in a quieter area of the room which gave the children an area to take a break from activities and rest.

Outdoor play was facilitated in the area adjacent to the main door of the service and the children had the opportunity to explore sand and water trays, hoops, balls, play kitchen with pots, pans and dishes, child size table and chairs and tents.

## 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 main door of the service was secured with a bell and lock which were supervised by staff. This reduced the potential risk of a child leaving the service unsupervised or an unauthorised adult entering the service.
- Children were facilitated to use the sanitary facilities in small groups of three with direct supervision from a member of staff.
- The care room was observed to be furnished with equipment, materials and furniture that were suitable for the age and developmental age of the children in attendance.
- Cleaning materials 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 tables were cleaned prior to children sitting down to eat their snack and each child was supported and encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

##### Fire Safety:

- On review of available documentation, it was observed that monthly fire drills took place in the morning and afternoon sessions.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. Warm water was not available in the sanitary facilities used by the children. At 10:47am and 12:04pm the temperature of the water was cold.

##### Administration of Medication:

2. The service did not have documentation available to record administration of medication to a child if it was required.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

## **Corrective & Preventive Action**

### **Infection Control:**

1. The secretary from the buildings committee was informed following the inspection. The issue has been resolved and warm water is available all the time while the early years' service is open.

### **Administration of Medication:**

2. We have updated our Administration of Medication Policy. We have also acquired an Administration Record book which we will always have on the premises. A photo of the book is attached.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

### **Infection Control:**

1. Supporting documentation regarding the installed water heater.

### **Administration of Medication:**

2. Revised policy and administration record template.

## **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 six staff members held First Aid Responder (FAR) certification training.

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

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 in the morning session was 2 May 2023 and the 17 April 2023 in the afternoon session.

(b) A record was available for the number, type and maintenance of the fire equipment which were last serviced in on the 19 May 2022 and the smoke alarms on the 3 May 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.