

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY021		
Name of Service:	Ballybane Rainbow Community Childcare Centre		
Address of Service:	Ballybane Community, Resource Centre, Ballybane, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 VP6D		
Name of Registered Provider:	Bridie Byrne		
Service type:	Part Time		
Date of Inspection:	25/10/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM No.
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	<p>Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.</p>		
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly		
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

Ballybane Rainbow Community Childcare is a part-time day-care service which opened in 2003. The service operates from Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 12.15am and from 12.30 to 4.15pm and offer sessional and part time childcare. The service is located in an urban residential area of Galway city. There were 2 playrooms in operation: The crèche playroom caters for children aged 12mts to 2.5 years, the pre-school room caters for children 2.5 years to 6 years of age. There is a dedicated sleep room for children under 2 years of age to sleep or rest. There is a large outdoor area at the side and rear of the building with hard core surfaces suitable for all year-round use, the area also includes a grassed area The service can cater for a maximum of 70 children ranging in ages from 12 months to 6 years.

Staffing

There are a total of 6 adults employed in the service which includes the registered provider. The person in charge facilitated the inspection on the day.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11 and 19; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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

(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 Manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspections, the manager was in charge and there was also a named person who could deputise.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the manager, it was confirmed that there were 5 members of staff employed in the service and 1 student on work placement.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

- (2) (a,b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous employer for the adult working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) Not applicable, as Police vetting was not required as no adult working in the service had lived for a period longer than 6 consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) The registered provider ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.
- (2) On the day of inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 9 pre-school children. At all times during the period of inspection, the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained. A student was on work placement on the day of 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

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Snacks and children's drinks were available to the children when they required them. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack without feeling rushed.
- Children are independent with their toileting needs and they have unrestricted access to the toilet that is located adjacent to the playroom.
- The children had access to relaxation area which was soft seating area adjacent to the book corner, this area was used on a number of occasions throughout the session. Staff members were observed sitting in this area with the children reading story books to the children.
- Children's behaviour was positively reinforced. Children were encouraged and praised throughout the session; this was observed on numerous occasions during the inspection.
- The children had access to the outdoor play area on a daily basis, on the day of inspection the children were observe putting on their outdoor gear prior to going outside. The children were encouraged to be as independent as possible, and the staff offered help and assistance when required.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The service supports children to develop a positive relationship with staff as there was a minimal staff turnover.
- The staff present demonstrated sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for the children as evidenced in the positive use of language and soft tones when speaking to the children.
- The atmosphere between the children and the staff remained calm and relaxed throughout the inspection .

- The staff communicated with parents/guardians on the progress of each individual child e.g. a verbal handover was given each day for each pre-school child at drop off/ collection time.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The children were observed washing their hands in a general-purpose sink in the creche playroom, they used a 3 step up to get access to the sink and 2 children tried to climb up the steps together and there was a risk to their safety, as the sink was too high up for the children to safely use it.

Infection Control:

The following point posed a risk of cross infection.

- The nappy disposal bin, that was used in the baby room sanitary area was not adequate as it was not foot pedalled or airtight.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The children will not use the sink in the playroom to wash their hands, they will use the sanitary area, where a low-level sink is available to the children.

Infection Control:

- The disposal bin in the nappy changing area that was replaced with the recommended, airtight, sealable and foot pedalled bin. We have purchased extra bins, so they can be replaced when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 05/02/2025, the registered provider submitted a photograph of the new nappy disposal bin.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the register provider addressed the non-compliance identified under regulation 23 . the regulatory requirement has been met.