

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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|---|---|----|-------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>                        | TU2015KY107                                     |    |       |
| <b>Name of Service:</b>                         | Rainbows Pre-school Playgroup Ltd               |    |       |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>                      | Community Centre, Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry          |    |       |
| <b>Eircode:</b>                                 | V93 KXW7  |    |       |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>             | Katie Clifford                                  |    |       |
| <b>Service type:</b>                            | Sessional                                       |    |       |
| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>                   | 27/04/2023                                      |    |       |
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b>               | AM  | 14 | PM 11 |
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry. |    |       |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | N. Reidy  |    |       |
| <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 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

### Description of service

Rainbows Pre-school Playgroup Ltd. is a registered community based early years sessional service. The service offers 2 sessions currently, operating between the hours of 9:00am and 12:00 mid-day, and 12:15pm to 3:15pm Monday to Friday for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years. Currently the service provide care for children aged between 3 years and 5 years. The service operates from a room on the ground floor with a designated enclosed outdoor play area.

### Staffing

There was a total of 4 adults employed in the service to work directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service 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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety.

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,*

*(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) There is the designated person in charge and a named person who can deputize 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 deputy is on the premises.
- (2) The person in charge confirmed that 1 adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 17/09/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.
- (a) 2 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) Not applicable as the 2 references on file were from a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 1 adult.
- (d) Not applicable as the adult in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The adult working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) Police Vetting was not on file for the adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried in respect of Police Vetting prior to the adult was appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) & 3. Anyone living outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months will be required to provide vetting appropriate to the country before beginning employment in Rainbows as outlined in Recruitment policy.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

The Police Vetting disclosure was received.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

### 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) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children present.

(3) There were 3 adults working with 14 children aged between 3 years and 5 years attending on a sessional basis in the morning and 3 adults working with 11 children aged 2 years 10 months and 3 years in the afternoon. The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) The 12 records inspected had all the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive

### 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;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The following records were kept: -

- (h) details of attendance by a pre-school child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a)

##### BASIC NEEDS

- All the food and snacks consumed on the premise is provided by the parents of the children attending.
- The children had sandwiches, brown bread, rice cakes, yogurts and a variety of fruit that included: -pears, blueberries, bananas, kiwis and raspberries.

- The mealtime was observed to be relaxed, with children afforded sufficient time to enjoy their food which promoted conversation and interaction among peers.
- Children’s toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. The toilets were directly accessible to the children within the playroom.
- Hand washing by the children was encouraged and supported prior to eating and after using the toilet.]
- Children’s need to rest was facilitated through the provision of a designated rest area in the reading corner and soft floor matting within the room.
- Children enjoyed freedom of movement in the playroom and within the indoor hall on the day of the inspection as the outdoor play was not used due to the inclement weather.

### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- The staff informed the inspector that regular updates and information regarding their child’s time in the service was furnished to parents at drop off and collection times, electronically, via an electronic translation method and via telephone.
- The children appeared to be happy and content during the session whilst partaking in individual playtime, small group and large group time.
- The adults were observed to be caring and kind in interacting with the children, they spoke to the children in soft tones of voice and were sensitive to children’s individual needs for example comforting children who became upset and re-directing them with a play activity.
- The adults used positive language praising children, “very good work, improving each day”.
- The adults were observed meeting and greeting parents at drop off and collection times in a friendly professional manner.

## 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 entrance door was adequately secured, it prevented unauthorised access into the service and children going out unsupervised.
- The internal door was secured to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the hall, adult sanitary accommodation and the stairs.
- The cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of the children.
- The first aid box was inaccessible to the children, it was stored in a high-level cupboard.

##### Infection Control:

- A supply of warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels were provided to support effective handwashing by the children and the adults.
- A fridge was provided and in use in the playroom to store the children's perishable food items.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The inspector was informed that no child attending on the day of the inspection was in receipt of medication.

##### Fire Safety:

- Records of monthly fire drills were in place.

## 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) 2 adults present had current First Aid Responder training and the certification was on file.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was in place, it was stored within the playroom within a high level wall mounted cupboard.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and was out of the reach of the children

## 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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -

(a) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 30/04/2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers was 24/11/2022 and the smoke alarm was 14/03/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was on file.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24.