

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY107
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Name of Service:	Rainbows Pre-school Playgroup Ltd
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Address of Service:	Community Centre, Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 KXW7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Katie Clifford
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	23/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	09
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	N. Reidy
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Inspection undertaken by:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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	N/A
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Description of service

Rainbows Pre-school is a registered early learning and care service that offers sessional care to children between the age of 2 years and 6 years. The service currently caters for children between the age of 2 years 10 months and 6 years.

The service operates from a single playroom located in the community centre in the rural village of Glenbeigh.

The sanitary accommodation for the children is located in the playroom, the children have access to a designated fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premise and the use of an indoor hall on occasions.

Staffing

There are 5 adults attached to the service. The registered provider does not work in the service with the children.

There was 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme, 2 adults on the community employment scheme (C.E) 1 of whom was studying towards achieving a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and 2 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

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 registered provider had a designated person in charge and there is a named deputy to deputise as required.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the designated person in charge was on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 5 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Of the 10 references required, there were 6 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 10 references required, 4 references from a source other than a previous employer on file with records of validation.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 5 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Not applicable as the adults had not resided outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for greater than six consecutive months.
- (4) 3 of the 4 adults working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

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 attending the service.

(3) There were 4 adults caring for 17 children aged between 2 years 11 months to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis in the morning. For the afternoon session, there were 2 adults caring for 9 children attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

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

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: -

- There was a designated rest space in the playroom consisting of soft matting on the floor and seating in the designated timber "rest house". The children were observed to use these facilities during story time for example and singly when a child wanted to rest and take a break away from the larger group.
- The adults caring for the children were observed to be kind, caring and understanding of children's individual needs. The adults facilitated children who wished to play individually during the session, and children who did not wish to play in the hall for example.
- The children enjoyed free movement within the playroom during the inspection and had some time in the indoor hall.
- The children's lunches were placed on the low-level tables prior to story time, children were afforded the opportunity of eating as they so wished or wait until after story time to sit as a group.

- The children washed their hands at the sink in the playroom before eating with staff on hand to assist as was needed.
- The parents/guardians of the children attending provide all the food for snack time.
- The food observed consisted of sandwiches, cheese, yogurts, pasta and a selection of fruit.
- The adults assisted the children in opening food packaging and sat with the children at the tables.
- Appropriate cutlery was provided as was needed, that included “golden spoons” which the children clearly enjoyed using to eat their yogurts.
- The children had plenty of time to eat their food in a relaxed environment.
- The inspector observed the children helping themselves to their individual drink’s bottles during the session.
- The children were observed to enjoy activities during the sessions for example the story time, with the adult reading “Room on the Broom” sitting as a group on the soft matting, colouring, water play and playing with blocks and small vehicles.
- The adult provided warm water in the water tray for water play and was observed checking the temperature of the water and checking with the children if the water was warm for them.
- The children participated and enjoyed Halloween themed activities casting spells on staff for example.
- The room was colourfully decorated with a selection of Halloween themed decorations and children’s artwork.
- The children had dressed in Halloween themed clothes. The inspector observed the adult’s enthusiasm regarding the children’s individual clothes, complimenting them and giving the time to talk about the clothes.
- The outdoor play area located at the rear of the building was not used on the day of the inspection.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located in the playroom.

• 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 external doors were secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access in.

- Cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored out of the reach of the children on high level shelving.

Infection Control:

- The soft matting was cleaned down with antibacterial spray after the story time.
- The windows in the service were open to provide natural ventilation in the service.
- There was a supply of warm water, antibacterial soap, disposable paper hand towels for effective hand washing by the children and the adults to reduce the spread of infection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 5 adults attached to the service. However, 1 vetting disclosure was not within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EY-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The renewal Garda vetting application was submitted. A list of re-application dates for each employee's Garda vetting renewal is now posted on the cover of the staff folder as a reminder that renewals must be completed every 3 years.

Supporting documentation submitted

The required Garda vetting disclosure for 1 adult was received.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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 did ensure that there was a person available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. There were 4 adults with FAR in date training certifications.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid box was stored in the playroom up high, out of reach of children and was clearly identifiable.
 - (b) The first aid box was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service and was available for the adults to attend to the children if required.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
- There were no defects observed regarding the premises and none identified on speaking with the person in charge.

Non-Compliance Information

- (c)
1. There was black staining on the walls in the children's toilets.
- (d)
2. The timber roof on the low-level playhouse in the designated outdoor play area was not completely intact. The person in charge informed the inspector the service had planned to replace the said roof.
- (e)
3. There was 1 of the children's toilets that had no toilet seat.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

1.

The black mark has been removed by a professional cleaning product, primed with mould prevention and re-painted. The blocked shutters have been cleared and the loose felt on the side of the shed had been repaired which we believe caused the dampness.

A monthly check will be added to the cleaning schedule. An industrial dehumidifier provided by the community handball hall will be used 1-2 times each month as a precaution. Daily ventilation will be provided.

(d)

2. The damaged section of the roof on the outdoor playhouse has been removed, repaired and the edges have been sealed. The edges of the roof have been sealed and covered to prevent any future spread of dry rot. The playground has been added to the maintenance checklist, treatments or repairs will be carried out as necessary.

(e)

3. The toilet seat has been re-attached.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. A photograph of the repaired bathroom walls.
2. A photograph of the repaired outdoor playhouse.
3. A photograph of the toilet seat in place.

Summary Comment

The correspondence received was examined. The requirement for this regulation has been met.