

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY014
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Name of Service:	Rainbowland Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	Rainbowland Childcare Centre, Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R45 XF99
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Name of Registered Provider:	James Moore
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	17/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	NA	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore Co. Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	D Molloy and C O' Connor Hughes.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Rainbowland Childcare is a full day care service located in a residential area in the town of Edenderry, County Offaly. The service is owned and operated privately. A new registered provider has taken over this service since November 2023.

The service is registered to cater for up to 120 children. The age range of children currently enrolled in the service is 2 years and eight months to 6 years of age. The service operates morning and afternoon ECCE sessions.

The service operates from buildings attached to the previous registered providers domestic dwelling and access to this domestic dwelling is restricted.

The setting is divided into different sections with specific names “rainbow land” and “woodland”. A purpose-built soft surface activity centre “adventure island” connects the two areas and can be accessed from both areas.

Six pre-school rooms, an office area, a reception area, a sleep room, storage areas and a kitchen are provided.

Outdoor play areas are attached to the front, side, and rear of the premises.

Staffing

The Quality Governance Co- Ordinator, the deputy person in charge and five staff members were present on the 17 January 2024. A cook was also present in the service.

The Quality Governance Co- Ordinator and the deputy person in charge attended the closing meeting.

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, safety, and notification of incidents.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

Regulation 9 (7)(a) Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 16 (1)(k) Record of a pre-school service

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 27 Supervision

Regulation 31 Notification of Incident.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 Management and Recruitment, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child and Regulation 27 Supervision. As a result, the scope of the inspection was in the toddler room.

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.

Additional Information

The inspection was informed by a notification of incident received from the service on the 12 January in respect of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Quality Governance Co-Ordinator, the deputy 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

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers, and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information

(7)(a)

Evidence was available in respect of staff induction that detailed staff training in the service and signed by staff members including the policies and procedures of the service.

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.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

- (1)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.
- (2)
In the afternoon there were thirty children attending the service supervised directly by five adults in addition to the deputy designated person in charge who was available to provide relief cover as required.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

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:*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(k)
The accident and incidents book were available and reviewed for children attending the toddler room.
The accident form was completed by the staff members on the 10 January 2024 in respect of the child that sustained a serious injury.

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 service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents in the toddler room. Risk assessments were reviewed in the toddler room. Inspectors signed the visitors book on arrival.

Infection Control:

Cleaning schedules were available for review in the toddler room. Toys and equipment were easily cleanable.

Safe Sleep:

A record of the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children was noted in a sleep log. The sleep room was attached to the toddler room. A staff member sat and observed children sleeping on low level beds. The environmental temperature recorded was 19 degrees Celsius.

Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed from the toddler room.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1.The practice of communication with parents in respect of an accident occurring in the service is at variance with the service accidents and incidents policy.

The staff did not follow the service's policy in respect of the accident that occurred on the 10 January 2024. The accident and incident policy stated "Parents and guardians will always be contacted and informed immediately and without delay of any injury or if a child is gone missing." .The parents were not informed of the accident at the time of occurrence.

2. The kitchen was located next to the toddler room. The kitchen was accessible to young children.

3.The fire extinguisher was located incorrectly where it was placed on the countertop in the toddler room.

Infection Control:

The portable foot operated sink was not working properly in the nappy changing area in the toddler room. There was no thermostatically controlled water for hand washing, the water was cold. The water pressure was minimal.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The service manager in written submission stated that all employees have undergone comprehensive retraining on the accident and incident policy which included a specific emphasis on the immediate and proactive communication with parents and have refined the internal reporting procedures to ensure that incidents are reported promptly and accurately including a step-by-step guide on how to communicate with parents or guardians in the event of an accident going forward. In addition, it was stated that in order to prevent future occurrences, the management have conducted extensive staff awareness training sessions. The training focused on the importance of adhering to the accident and incident policy, emphasising the critical need for immediate and transparent communication with parents or guardians and the supervision policy has been updated to incorporate additional safeguards and guidelines.
2. In written submission the management stated that a new lock had been purchased for the kitchen door .
3. In written submission the management stated that the fire extinguisher, which had been on the countertop has now been attached to the wall in the toddler room.

Infection Control:

In a written submission to this office and subsequent phone conversation the management stated that a new sink had been secured and instillation was awaiting for professional service personnel to fit it.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. In written communication a copy of staff training and staff attendance records in relation to the training were submitted to this office.
2. In relation to the possibility of a child accessing the kitchen area a photograph of new door lock was submitted by management.
3. A photograph of the new location of the fire extinguisher ,attached to the wall where it had been removed from the countertop in the toddler room was submitted by the management.

Infection Control:

In written communication and further telephone communication the management stated that a new sink unit has been sourced for the nappy changing room and the service was awaiting a professional person to fit this and that interim infection measures including chemical hand sanitising is in place in the meantime.

Summary Comment

Following review of the submitted documents by the inspectorate, the requirement for Regulation 23 have been partially met, the infection control issue remains outstanding.

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)
Staff members held first aid training and were available to the children attending the pre-school service. First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates were in date and were available for review in respect of four staff members .

(2)
(a) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location on the premises .
(b) The first aid box was readily available in the service at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The five children present in the toddler room aged 2 to 3 years were supervised by the two staff at play activities and while sleeping during the inspection.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;

Compliance Information

The Quality Governance Co- Ordinator submitted a notification of incident to the Agency within 3 working days of a serious injury that occurred in respect of a child on the 10 January 2024.