

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY014		
Name of Service:	Rainbowland Childcare Ltd		
Address of Service:	Rainbowland Childcare Centre, Carrick Road, Edenderry, Co. Offaly		
Eircode:	R45 XF99		
Name of Registered Provider:	James Moore		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	13/01/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	75	PM 39
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.		
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan and F. Maher.		
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.
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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 part of a multiple group of services owned and operated by the registered provider James Moore. The service is registered to cater for up to 120 children aged 0-6 years. Six pre-school rooms, an office area, reception areas, a sleep room, storage areas and a kitchen are provided. The outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises. Parking and set down is available outside the premises on the public road.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present for the inspection. Twenty adults are employed in the service. On the day of the inspection there were eighteen adults present and of these, fifteen were working directly with the children, the person in charge and deputy person in charge provided additional support to the care rooms as needed and a cook was employed to prepare food for the children daily. The area manager arrived after the inspection had commenced and remained for the duration of the inspection. All staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under.

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 19(1)(b) – Health, Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 20(1)(a) – Facilities for Rest and Play.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under

- Regulation 19(1)(b) – Health, Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Wobbler room, Room 2, Toddler room and the Cabin.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, the area manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that ten new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Nine of these new staff members work directly with the children.

(2)

(a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of 10 adults employed whose staff files were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 2 adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4) Nine adults, recently employed to work directly with children attending the service, held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher or a recognised equivalent qualification 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.

(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) There were seventy-five children attending the service being supervised directly by fourteen adults and one adult who was employed to provide support to the care rooms.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for 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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

There was a healthy eating policy in the service. The staff sat with the children at mealtimes which were observed to be sociable and relaxed. Children were given plenty of time to eat their food. Staff encouraged the children to self-feed in the Wobbler room but also fed them to ensure they finished their meal.

Children's toileting was completed at regular intervals throughout the day but more frequently if needed. Independence was encouraged with the older children, and they were discreetly supervised to ensure they washed and dried their hands after using the toilet.

Younger children displaying signs of tiredness were settled to sleep in a cot. The older children slept at a designated time during the day.

Children's play activities were child led. There was plenty of play materials and resources placed on low units and freely available which allowed the children to choose their activity in each of the care rooms. Children were observed to move freely around the rooms. Some children did not choose to sit at tables, and the staff members accommodated each child's choice.

The staff members were observed to be respectful and kind in their interactions with the children. First names, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were used. Young children were observed being comforted and nursed in the Wobbler room. The children were very comfortable with the adults looking after them. Transitions were well managed in the care rooms inspected and the children were given plenty of warning that something was changing such as snack time, toileting, sleep time. The predictability of the daily routine and the stable staffing enabled the children to feel safe, secure and confident in their surroundings.

Parents are provided with electronic updates about their child's day via an electronic communication system for general communication and private messaging also. There is an open-door policy in the service and information was shared between parent and the staff members at drop off and collection time. The manager uses telephone and email as alternative methods of communication and meetings can be arranged by appointment when required.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Adequate and suitable indoor and outdoor facilities were provided on the premises.
 - (b) The wobbler sleep room was equipped with nine cots. Cosy rest areas provided suitable relaxation facilities for children in the pre-school rooms. Eleven low level beds were in place for children to sleep and rest in room 2 which was transitioned into a sleep room.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b)
1. The cot sheets were too large on three of the cot mattresses and did not fit snugly.
 2. There was no waterproof wipeable covers on four of the cot mattresses.
 3. There was no fire safe label on two cot mattresses.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) (b)
1. Appropriately sized cot sheets have been purchased to ensure a snug fit on all cot mattresses, replacing sheets that were previously oversized.
 2. New washable waterproof mattress protector sheets have been purchased for all cots to support infection prevention and hygiene practices.
 3. Two new cot mattresses have been purchased to replace mattresses that did not display fire safety labels. Invoices and photographs are attached as evidence of compliance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Invoice and photographs point 1, 2 and 3.

Summary Comment

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the area manager on behalf of the registered provider have been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 20(1)(b).

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 entrance door to the service was secured and managed by the staff to ensure the safety of the children within the service. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. Staff members in each care room advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them.

The staff members were aware of the potential choking risks that grapes posed when asked by the inspectors. There was documentary evidence available that daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily and reviewed by the registered provider to promptly identify and manage any potential risks in the care rooms. The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and the handwashing routines were well established. The staff were observed washing their hands also. Nappy changing practices were consistent with the nappy change procedure for the service. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal and containment of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. The staff members were familiar with the required practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored. A detailed health care plan was in place for a child requiring medication to be administered for a pre-existing health condition.

Safe Sleep:

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and the required care of sleeping children including 10-minute sleep check observations for all sleeping children which was recorded in the sleep log. An adequate number of cots and low-level beds were available to meet the sleep needs of the children attending.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out, and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed. Fire assembly signage was observed in the outdoor area at the rear of the service.

Outing:

The manager stated that service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Children aged 2-3 years were observed using the large climbing frame and soft play equipment known as 'Adventure Island' located in the Toddler room; there was no safety documentation including the suitable age range for the large soft play frame known as 'Adventure Island' available.
2. Fire safe restrictive opening devices were not placed on two windows in room 2 to prevent unauthorised entry to the service.

Infection Control:

3. It is acknowledged that a container of sterilisation solution was made up and immediately available for staff to use in the Wobbler room on the day of the inspection. However, there was a lack of clarity around the process of cleaning prior to placing soothers, toys and other equipment in the solution.
4. There was no foot pedal operated nappy change bin in the Wobbler room and Room 2 nappy changing areas for the hygienic disposal of soiled nappies.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The play structure known as Adventure Island has been fully closed off and is no longer in use within the service. The upper structure and slides are not accessible to children under any circumstances. The previous owners are currently attempting to sell the structure, with the view to permanently remove the structure from the premises. In the interim children continue to use the room however the area where the upper structure and slides are located has been securely sectioned off and remains inaccessible. Staff actively supervise the room

the ensure the restricted area is not accessed. The structure is longer in use and will be removed as soon as it is sold.

2. Window restrictors have been installed on the identified windows to ensure child safety.

Infection Control:

3. Staff training on the sterilisation procedure was conducted during a staff meeting to ensure clarity and consistency of practice. The sterilisation procedure has been clearly displayed on the wall in the relevant area for ongoing staff reference. Further training was provided to reinforce the importance of ensuring that all mouthed objects are thoroughly cleaned in hot soapy water prior to being placed in the sterilisation solution. This measure has been implemented to strengthen hygiene practices and prevent reoccurrence.
4. Sealable foot-pedal operated nappy disposal bins have now been purchased and installed in all three nappy changing areas.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographs / risk assessment document.
2. Photographs.

Infection Control:

3. Staff agenda and staff meeting sign in attached. Displayed sterilisation procedure attached
4. Invoice and photographs of newly purchased bins.

Summary Comment

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the area manager on behalf of the registered provider have been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 23.

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

Children were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection by the staff caring for them both indoors in their care rooms, in the sanitary areas, while sleeping, during transitions from indoors to the outdoor play area and in the outdoor play area.