

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW133
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Name of Service:	Rainbows Pre-School
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Address of Service:	74 Pebble Bay, Friars Hill, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A67 T229
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Dawson
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	29/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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	N/A
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Description of service

Rainbows Pre-school is a privately operated pre-school which provides care and education to pre-school children. The service operates in a purpose-built room adjacent to the registered provider's home in a residential area in Wicklow town. The service consists of a hallway, sanitary accommodation and an outdoor area which is accessed through double doors from the pre-school room. The service is registered to care for a maximum of 22 children aged two to six years. The registered provider operates the service from Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year and the hours of operation are from 09:30 to 12:30.

Staffing

Four staff are employed, one of whom is the registered provider. A student was also present on inspection.

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

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

(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

- (2)
- Four adults are employed in the service. One student was also present. All five files were reviewed.
- (a)&(b) Ten written and validated past employer references were available for five adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of five adults. However, regarding two disclosures, 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 no staff member had been employed outside the state for a period of more than six months as an adult.
- (4)
- The four adults employed held major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for 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.*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. There were three adults present with seventeen pre-school children on the day of inspection.

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 appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- Documentary evidence was available that fire drills were being carried out on a monthly basis as per best practice guidelines.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelving and were inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch and after using the toilet. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed and in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures. A pedal operated bin was available in the sanitary area for the disposal of used paper towels.
- The premises play equipment, and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely. Staff were aware of the procedure to be undertaken should medication be required.

Outings:

The person in charge stated that outings are undertaken from the service approximately twice per year. A comprehensive outings policy was available.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting, which was available for two adults, was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Fire Safety:

2. The smoke alarm in the service was last serviced in November 2022. Servicing of the smoke alarm is required at least on a yearly basis.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda Vetting was immediately received and submitted for the two staff members. All staff now have in date Garda vetting
Garda Vetting has now been added to our beginning of the year check list for the future. Dates have expiring vetting has also been noted in a prominent area. We will ensure that Garda Vetting is carried out every two years.

Fire Safety:

2. The alarm company were immediately called, and it was serviced within two days. This has now been completed.
Going forward the fire alarm system will be serviced annually.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Copies of completed renewed Garda vetting for two staff members.

Fire Safety:

2. Copy of record of alarm service dated May 2025.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

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) Two staff members were trained in first aid response (FAR).

One staff member who was trained in FAR was available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)

The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position next to the pre-school room.

(b)

At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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)(a)

A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 31st of March 2025.

(b)

A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm dated April 2024 and November 2022 respectively.

(4)

Notices were displayed in conspicuous positions, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

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 children present were supervised at all times while they were in the indoor and outdoor areas during the session.