

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY005
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Name of Service:	Little Rainbows Limited
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Address of Service:	39 Ardlea Road, Artane, Dublin 5.
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Eircode:	D05 EW28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Campbell
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	14/08/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	54	PM	50
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster
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

Little Rainbows Limited operates from a converted, two-storey residential area that is located in North Dublin. The service provides early childhood care and education to a maximum of 55 children aged from 1-6 years old, Monday-Friday from 8am to 6pm. The service has 5 care rooms, and this consisted of Little Monkeys (1-2 years), Little Bears (1.5-2.5 years), which are located on the ground floor of the premises. Little Bunnies (2 years), and Busy Bees (2.5-3 years), are located on the first floor of the premises. In addition, there is the Garden Room (3-4 years) that is located in a separate purpose-built building at the rear of the premises. Children can avail of a secure outdoor area that is at the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work with the service and employs 18 staff members to work within the service. This includes an area manager, person in charge, deputy person in charge and 15 childcare staff. On the morning of inspection, there were 13 staff present. Shortly after the inspection commenced, the area manager arrived to help facilitate the inspection process.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 Management and Recruitment, Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development and Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Little Monkey's room and the Little Bears 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, person in charge, 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

(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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A review of the roster and discussion with staff evidenced that the person in charge or the deputy person in charge was rostered to be on the premises for the duration of the service opening hours.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was further evidenced through discussion with staff.

- (2) In discussion with the person in charge and a review of the roster showed that there are currently eighteen staff, including an area manager employed to work within the service. The files of nine new staff who had commenced employment following the previous inspection on the 07 December 2023 were reviewed.
- (a) There were thirteen written and validated references available from past employers.
 - (b) There were five written and validated references from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all nine staff members. 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 six adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that all nine adults who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification that is deemed of equivalence by the minister

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) Police vetting was unavailable for one adult who had lived outside Ireland for a period of six consecutive months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) had not been completed prior to one person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service following review of the staff records on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (d) Police vetting has been applied for.
- (3) We will ensure to check all files before staff are employed to include police vetting from other countries.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under regulation 9 (3). However, regulation 9 (2)(d) remains outstanding, the registered provider is required to submit the police vetting to the inspectorate when it is received.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection, there were fifty-four children being cared for by eleven adults in the morning and fifty children being cared for by eleven adults in the afternoon. Additionally, the area manager and the person in charge were available to provide support in the care rooms as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children within the rooms.

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:

- Individually labelled beakers of water were available to the children at all times.
- Mealtime was observed to be a fun and interactive experience for the children. At 11am, children were observed to have savoury mince, vegetables, and mash potatoes, which is in line with the services menu. In discussion with staff, additional portions of food were available should a child need and alternative food options were also available for children.

- Nappy changing was done on a set schedule and as required to ensure the children's comfort. Nappy changing was observed to be a relaxed process with opportunity for chatting and singing.
- Staff were observed to support children throughout their play activities and promoting a sense of curiosity for the children through asking open-ended questions.

Physical and Material environment:

- Low level tables and chairs were present in all rooms to allow children to engage in tabletop activities and mealtimes independently and comfortably.
- Toys and equipment were stored on low level shelves which supports independent play.
- The outdoor area provided opportunities for a range of play experiences. Large climbing and slide units were available along with ride on toys, scooters for gross motor development while a playhouse allowed for imaginative play experiences.

Supporting Relationships:

- Staff promoted and encouraged language of pre-verbal children through a range of songs and stories
- Staff were observed to use warm tones when speaking to the children and were positive in their approach.

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 to the service was secure which prevented unauthorised persons accessing the service. A release button was present on the inside of the door out of reach of the children which prevented any children leaving the service unnoticed
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and locked away out of reach of children.
- Shelving units were firmly anchored to the wall to ensure stability and safety.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and the door remained closed throughout the inspection.

- In discussion with staff, the service operates a nut free zone and a popcorn free zone. Additionally, staff reiterated their knowledge and understanding of beaded jewellery and ensured that it would be immediately removed if observed within the service.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and wall mounted paper towels were available for appropriate hand washing practices. Both staff and children were observed to show familiarity with routine handwashing.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order
- Upon observation, it was evident that children had individual bed linen that was clean and in good condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection. Through discussion, staff were familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to children attending the service.
- Observation showed that medication was stored safely and out of reach of children.
- In discussion with staff, it was evident that they were aware of medical care plans for children and where the emergency medication is stored. In addition to this, staff were aware of the procedures to take in relation to potential anaphylaxis and the administering of emergency treatment if the event occurred

Safe Sleep:

- Cots within the sleep room were placed at 50cms apart.
- Appropriate sleep equipment in line with Tusla's guidance on safe sleep was provided to children who were under two years of age

Fire Safety:

- All fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Room temperatures within the Little Monkeys care room were not maintained at an ambient temperature of 18-22°C. At 10:47am, it was observed that temperatures within the Little Monkeys room were recorded at 24°C, which posed a potential risk of overheating to the children. This was at variance with the rooms temperature checklist as it was recorded at 21°C. It is acknowledged that upon speaking with the area

manager and person in charge, corrective action was taken. At 11:43am an air-cooling system was brought into the Little Monkeys room to mitigate the high temperatures. Observation checks noted that the Little Monkeys room temperature reduced to a temperature of 22°C for the remainder of the inspection.

- Nine highchairs within the Little Monkey's room were observed to be inadequately stacked at 10:25am. These were within reach of pre-walking children and posed a safety risk.

Infection Control:

- Two of the highchairs within the Little Monkey's room were observed to be inadequately cleaned, with residual markings and food attached to both.
- At 11:24 am it was observed that a child's individual water bottle had been in use by another child and returned to the child by a staff member without adequate cleaning. This posed a cross-infection risk.

Safe Sleep:

- At 10:55am it was observed that an ambient temperature of 18-22°C was not maintained within the adjacent sleep room while a child was sleeping. Temperatures were recorded at 24.1°C and this posed a safety risk to the sleeping child. It is acknowledged that the window of the cot room was opened at this time. At 12:36pm the temperature of the cot room was recorded at 22°C degrees. This was at variance with the services safe sleep policy which states *"room temperatures will be kept between 16-20°C and a thermometer kept within the sleep room...recording and documenting room temperature during sleeps ensure babies are being cared for within recommended limits"*.
- There were inadequate records to show that sleeping children were checked at 10-minute intervals as required; A child was observed asleep in the cot room adjacent to the Little Monkeys care room at 10:55am however at 11:27am there was no record of sleep checks having been conducted. At 12:39pm a sleep check record was available having been filled in retrospectively. This posed a potential risk to the child and was at variance with the services safe sleep policy which states *"The supervising staff member carries out and records physical sleep observations on sleeping infants and children at least every ten minutes...these checks are conducted, documented, and recoded in line with the services sleep policy"*

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Room temperatures are taken by staff but double checked by management. The air-cooling system is always in place to regulate the temperature. We will ensure to keeping a record of temperatures and being checked by management.

2. Highchairs have been removed and stored in a small room off the Little Monkeys main room and out of reach of children

Infection Control:

3. Highchairs have been disinfected to the highest standard. Staff were made aware of this, and management are to check this daily.
4. We spoke to the staff in question and made them aware of the cross-infection risk. Meeting with all staff to make them aware of infection control.

Safe Sleep:

5. At the meeting, we made all staff aware of filling out temperature records, and that they should be recorded every 10 minutes. We have made signs, reminding the staff to physically check the children every 10 minutes also.
6. We have given staff a copy of the Safe sleeping policy and we reminded all staff at the meeting of how the children should be checked. Spot checks to be done regularly by management, to ensure the safe sleeping is carried out.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documentary evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

Documentary evidence submitted.

Safe Sleep:

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under 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) The person in charge was trained in First Aid Response (FAR), expiry date of August 2025 and was immediately available to the children attending the service. Additionally, the person in charge ensured that a second staff member held up to date FAR certification and were immediately available to the children as needed.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly.
 - (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the adults caring for children attending the 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) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on the 21 July 2025.
 - (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems in the premises.
 - Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on 22 August 2024.

- Records demonstrate that the smoke alarms have been serviced on a quarterly bases with the last service taking place on the 08 April 2025.

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the pre-school service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.