

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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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Campbell
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	07/12/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	50	PM	51
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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:	E. Finnegan Hayes & C. Harte
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

Little Rainbows Limited is privately operated full day care service located in residential area in North Dublin. The service is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 55 children aged 1-6 years, Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm. The service operates from a converted 2 storey residential building that contains 5 care rooms, namely Little Monkeys (1-2 years), Little Bears 1 and Little Bears 2 are located in one room which is divided by a low-level partition. Little bears one caters for children aged 2-3 years while Little Bears 2 caters for children aged 22-24 months. Little Bunnies (2-3 years) and Busy Bees (3-4 years) are located on the first floor. An additional room named the Garden room (4-5 years) is located in a separate purpose-built building at the rear of the premises. Children have access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider employs sixteen staff members to work in the service and also employs an area manager. Eleven staff were present on the day of inspection. The area manager attended the service during the 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under;

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, Little Bears 1, Little Bears 2 and Busy Bees and did not include the other care rooms.

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 area manager, 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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. A review of the roster for the week of the inspection showed that the person in charge or a named deputy is rostered to be on the premises for the duration of the service opening hours.

(2) Discussion with the registered provider and a review of the roster showed there are currently 16 staff and an area manager employed to work in the service. The files of all 17 adults were reviewed.

(a)(b) Thirty-four written and verified references were available in relation to 17 adults currently employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting was available for all 17 adults.

(d) Police vetting was available for seven adults who lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 16 staff who worked directly with the children held 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.

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) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children from 10am when the inspectors arrived in the service to 12pm and from 1:10pm to 4pm. Nine staff were working directly with 51 children while two additional staff were available to offer support as required.
- (2) Ratios were observed to be maintained in the service from 10am when the inspectors arrived in the service to 12pm and from 1:10pm to 4pm. The following was observed;
- In the Little Monkeys room two adults were caring for 7 children aged 14-20months old.
 - In Little Bears 1 room one adult was caring for 6 children aged 2-3 years old.
 - In Little Bears 2 room one adult was caring for 5 children aged 20-26 months old.
 - In the Little Bunnies room one adult was caring for 5 children aged 2.5-3 years old.
 - In the Busy bee's room two adults were caring for 12 children aged 2-3 years old.
 - In the Garden room two adults were caring for 16 children aged 3-4 years old.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not ensure there was adequate staff available to the children between 12pm-1:10pm. The following was observed;
- Between 12pm-1pm 7 staff were caring for 51 children. Eight staff were required based on the ages of the individual children.
 - Between 1pm-1:10pm 6 staff were caring for 51 children. Eight staff were required based on the ages of the individual children.
- (2) Ratios were not maintained in the care room during staff lunchbreaks between 12pm-1:10pm. The following was observed;

- In the Monkey's room one staff member was caring for 7 children aged 14-20 months old. Three children were present in the care room; one of whom was awake while four children were asleep in a cot room within the care room.
 - In the Busy Bee's room one staff member was caring for 11 children; 3 of whom were aged 1 year and 8 of whom were 2 years old.
- No additional staff members were available at this time to offer support in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A new rota system has been adopted and additional staff have been made available to ensure adequate staff are available and ratios are maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 11.

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:

- The service has a healthy eating policy and provides all of the food eaten in the service. Children receive two meals and two snacks each day; a fruit plater in the morning, dinner at 11am, tea at 2 pm and an afternoon snack at 4pm. A menu was available which included a variety of foods each day. Children were observed to have mashed potato, vegetables, fish fingers and gravy on the day of inspection in line with the menu. Additional portions of food were available for children who required more food and staff discussed alternatives for children who didn't like particular foods.

- Water in individual labelled bottles was readily available and easily accessible to the children throughout the day.
- 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 provide verbal cues to indicate the end of an activity or an upcoming transition. In the Busy bees care room staff used a song to support the transition from playtime to dinner while in the Little Monkey's staff were observed to tell the children what activity was happening now and what was coming next. This ensures a structure to the day and supports children understand the daily routine.
- Rain gear is provided by the service for use by the younger children. This ensures children can access the outdoor area regardless of weather.

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 were observed to use warm tones when speaking to the children and were positive in their approach. In the Little Monkey's room staff were observed to praise child's efforts to say words and use language. This promotes a supportive environment where children feel confident to attempt new things.
- Staff were familiar with all the children in the service and spoke fondly of the families and older siblings who they had cared for previously. This promoted a welcoming atmosphere and ensured the children feel welcomed and provided a sense of belonging in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

1. A limited amount of supporting equipment and props were observed in the Little monkey's room and Little bears room 2, for example in little bears room 2 one plate and 15 pieces of play food were available in the play kitchen while the art easel did not have any supporting equipment such as crayons or chalk. In the little monkey's room two small baskets, 1 slice of cake, 1 pan and 1 plate were available for the play kitchen.

Limited supporting equipment and props limits the opportunities for children to engage in spontaneous independent play experiences which are required for learning.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Additional toys have been purchased. Staff have been asked to notify the manager of the needs for new toys and equipment regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

A receipt for new toys was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 19.

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 children leaving the service unnoticed.
- Windows in the Busy bee's room were fitted with restrictor devices to prevent injury from falls.
- Cleaning sprays were secured out of reach of the children throughout the service.
- Blind cords were adequately secured.
- Highchairs were fitted with five-point harness and were maintained in good condition.
- Daily risk assessments were available throughout the service and completed to date.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean, hygienic manner throughout. Cleaning records which were displayed through the service were completed to date.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water and dispensed soap were readily available in the sanitary areas to support staff and children to maintain adequate hand hygiene.
- Handwashing was observed regularly throughout the day after nappy changing and before mealtimes.
- Cots and sleep mats were labelled for use by individual children.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were knowledgeable of the individual needs of the children and the procedure to be followed in relation to children who had food intolerances. Medication was readily available to ensure any minor reactions could be treated promptly.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were observed to be carried out on sleeping children. These checks were conducted every 10 minutes and staff were observed to record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits throughout the service were observed to be unobstructed.
- Attendance records were completed in a timely manner to ensure they reflected the children present in the service. This ensured an adequate record of children in attendance was available in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The paint was observed to be chipped with wood visible in one cot in the cot room. This cot was observed to be used during naptime. This posed a risk of potential injury to the child from ingesting the paint of wood fragments while also preventing adequate cleaning.

Infection Control:

2. Cots in the cot room were not spaced 50cms apart which posed an infection control risk.
3. Sheets were observed to be placed on the sleep mats early in the day. The mats were then stacked together with the sheets touching posing a cross contamination risk. It is acknowledged that the service uses individual bags to store bedding between washes.
4. The mattresses from the folding cots were observed to be present in cots in the cot room with their sheets on. This posed a cross contamination risk.

5. Pedal operated bins were not available for disposal of contaminated items or were not used correctly where available for example during nappy changing staff were observed to use their hand to open the pedal operated bin to dispose of soiled nappies, gloves and aprons while in Little bears 1 the pedal operated bin was placed on top of another bin meaning it could not be used correctly and hands were used to open the bin. Pedal operated bins are required for disposal of contaminated items such as used tissues and nappies. These should be used correctly to prevent the spread of infection.
6. Rolls of paper handtowels were not hygienically dispensed throughout the service for example in the nappy changing and toilet area adjacent to Little Bears 1 a roll of paper handtowels was observed sitting on the radiator cover. Wet spots were observed on the roll which posed an infection control risk.
7. The beanbag in the Little Monkeys room was visibly soiled on the day of inspection. Staff advised that it is difficult to clean as the cover is not removeable. This presents an infection control risk.

Safe Sleep:

8. Three children; two of who were 23 months old and one of whom was 20 months old were observed to sleep on mats which is not in line with *"Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months"*. The sleep mats were not a minimum of 6cm in depth, were placed directly on the floor and the required sleep plans were not in place. Staff advised that risk assessments and parental permission were available to allow the children to sleep on mats. It is acknowledged that parental permission allowing to sleep on mats was available on file for two children and risk assessments were also available in relation to two of the children however these stated the child would sleep in a cot.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The damaged cot has been removed and a new one purchased. Staff have been made aware of the danger and have been asked to remain vigilant of issues in future.

Infection Control:

2. One cot will be moved to the care room during sleep time. Staff have been advised of this.
3. Sheets will be removed from the mattresses after sleep time. Staff have been made aware of the dangers of cross contamination and advised to store bedlinen individually.
4. Sheets will be removed from the mattresses after sleep time. Staff have been made aware of the dangers of cross contamination and advised to store bedlinen individually.
5. New bins have been purchased and staff have been advised of how to correctly use them.

6. Hand towel dispensers have been fitted to the care rooms as needed. Staff have been trained on how to use them correctly.
7. A new beanbag has been purchased to replace the old one.

Safe Sleep:

8. Children under two years old will be placed in cots to sleep. Cocoon type floor mats have been purchased and will be used with parental consent and appropriate risk assessments.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photos have been reviewed in relation to above.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance 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 registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and that a staff member trained in FAR was immediately available to the children if required as evidenced through a review of the staff roster and FAR certification for three staff members.

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider ensured that suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored safely out of reach of the children but easily accessible if needed.

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 firefighting 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 registered provider ensured that a record of fire drills was maintained in the service. The record showed that fire drills were conducted monthly and the last one recorded was on the 9th November 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available for review in the service. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced during August 2023 while the smoke alarms were last serviced on 1st March 2023.
- (4) Notices of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency were displayed throughout the service in care rooms and communal areas.

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 the service was adequately insured. The insurance certificate reviewed showed that insurance is in place until 27th March 2024.