

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016FL012
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Name of Service:	Little Rainbows (Baldoyle)
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Address of Service:	16 Red Arches Avenue, The Coast, Baldoyle, Dublin 13.
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Campbell
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	80	PM	84
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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 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Griffin and T. Nelson
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 (Baldoyle) is a privately run service located in a residential area in North Dublin. The service provides full-time, part-time, and sessional care and education to children aged 0-6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service consists of an office, a kitchen, eight care rooms and sanitary facilities. Wobbler room 1, Wobbler room 2, Wobbler room 3 and a cot sleep room are located on the ground floor. Toddler room 1, Toddler room 2, ECCE 1 room, Junior ECCE room and the Senior Montessori room are located on the first floor. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service in a supportive capacity and employs 21 adults. Staff include a deputy person in charge, nineteen childcare staff and one auxiliary a cook. On the day of inspection, there were nineteen adults present including the registered provider, the deputy person in charge and the cook.

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 15 (1) (a-i) and (3)(c) Record of a Preschool Child, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child, and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler 1, Wobbler 3, ECCE 1 and Toddler 2 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 registered provider, 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 named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and staff reported being aware of this.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the registered person confirmed there are currently 21 adults employed by the registered provider to work in the service. The staff files of seven adults who were new to the service since the last inspection were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
- (a) There were ten written and validated references available from past employers.
 - (b) There were four written and validated references available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all seven adults. 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 five adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to seven adults before employment commenced.
- (4) There was documentary evidence available that the seven adults who worked directly with children attending the service held a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

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 that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. In the morning there were 16 adults working with 80 children and during the afternoon there were 16 adults working with 84 children. In addition, the registered provider and the deputy person in charge were available to provide support where required.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children in the rooms.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of fifteen children's registration records were reviewed as part of the inspection. The registered provider ensured a full record (1) (a-i) was maintained for thirteen of the fifteen records sampled.
- (3) (c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) Two of the fifteen records reviewed were not fully completed. Evidenced by the following.
- Part (1)(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child had been left blank.
 - In addition, one of these records did not have part (1)(i) record of parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency completed. This posed a risk of safety.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) Parents of the child in question were contacted and a copy of the immunisation record of the child was forwarded and is now on file. In relation to the missing parental permission, this was immediately updated. All children's Registration Forms have been checked, and any missing information has been sought from parents.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action plan have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 15.

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 provided meals and snacks at regular intervals one of which was a hot meal. Staff reported that breakfast time is between 8.30am and 9am. This was followed by yoghurt, chopped up fruit and crackers at 10am, savoury mince and mashed potatoes was served between 11am and 11.30am. An alternative hot meal consisting of chickpea, vegetables and mashed potatoes was available and extra food was also available if required. All food was prepared in the kitchen in the service. Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- The presence of 'Family Wall' displays, 'Birthday Time' displays, 'All about me' display and the children's artwork on display throughout the service, this demonstrated a sense of identity for the children.
- There were cosy areas with a soft mat, cushions and books for rest and relaxation present in the care rooms. In addition, there was an adult sized chair in the Baby room which was observed in use when staff comforted a child.

- There was a garden timetable displayed on the wall, and children were observed to play outdoors during the inspection. This supported their social, cognitive, and gross and fine motor development.

Supporting Relationships with Children:

- Mealtimes observed were sociable events, staff chatted to the children. In the younger rooms children were encouraged to self-feed and staff were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- Children in the Toddler 2 room were observed to be having fun and were engaged in a large group music activity. This supported the children's social and emotional development.
- Children's independence was supported for example staff were observed to encourage children to tidy up after play time. Staff modelled how to tidy away toys and praised the children for their efforts of tidying up.
- In Wobbler 1 room staff were observed to comfort a child who was settling in. When the child appeared upset at dinner time, staff offered the child an alternative type of chair for eating and sat close by the child.
- The service used an electronic form of communication throughout the day and handover sheets at the end of the day to communicate with parents and update them on their child's meals, sleep times, nappy changes and activities.

Equipment and Materials:

- The care rooms in the service were designed with the age and stage of development having been taken into consideration and equipment and materials were visible and accessible enabling the children to independently access their choice of activity. In the Wobbler 1 room there was adequate space for the babies and toddlers to explore their environment which included a selection of age and stage appropriate toys and equipment. For example, there was climbing equipment, building blocks, a sensory corner, a mirror with a climbing bar, soft play area, push along toys and music equipment. In the Toddler 2 room the toys and materials were labelled and themed. This promoted spontaneous play opportunities for the children present. In addition, there were designated areas for various types of imaginative role play experiences for example there was a home area with dolls, prams, a kitchen with supporting equipment, small world figures, dress up costumes and there was a construction area with transporting and various connecting equipment.

The outdoor areas were equipped with a soft artificial grass surface and there was play equipment such as slides, a climbing rope, climbing frame, a tunnel, ride on toys such as cars and tractors for the children to play with. There was also a wooden table and bench for rest and socialisation. The outdoor materials available supported the children's social, cognitive, gross, and fine motor development.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The table used at mealtime for the children in the Toddler 2 room was observed to be too high for some of the children. This did not facilitate the children to eat comfortably and independently.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Suitable chairs for the height of table were purchased. In addition, suitable furniture has been added to the criteria for future risk assessment procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Documentary evidence of receipt for new chairs.
- Photographic evidence of the new chairs.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action plan have addressed the non-compliances identified 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:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The two outdoor play areas were securely fenced reducing the risk of children from exiting unsupervised. Children who were brought out to the outdoor play area from indoors were observed to be supervised.
- Medication was stored safely out of the reach of the children.
- Blind cords were secured safely out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- All windows were secured with safety restrictors.

Infection Control:

- Windows in the care rooms were observed to be open which allowed for circulation of air and reduced the risk of cross infection.
- Waterproof mattress covers were used for the sleeping children and staff were familiar with the washing schedule.
- Cots and sleep floor mats were positioned 50 cm apart, as per best practice guidelines to reduce the potential risk of cross infection.
- Soothers were stored safely, and staff were knowledgeable on how to wash and sterilise soothers between use.

Safe Sleep:

- Outer clothing was removed from the children before sleep time.
- Children under one years of age were provided with a cot for sleeping.
- Children under two years of age not sleeping in a cot were provided with a mattress with a minimum depth of 6cms as per Tusla's "Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months".

- Children over 2 years of age were provided with an individual sleep mat.
- An ambient temperature of 16-20°C was maintained for sleeping children under one years of age.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over two years of age.
- Children were monitored while sleeping at intervals of 10 minutes or less and staff recorded the breathing, position, and colour of each child at each check.

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. Cleaning agents were observed to be stored accessible to children in an unlocked press in the Wobbler 3 room. This posed a risk of injury. It is acknowledged that a staff member moved the cleaning agent out of reach of the children once the identified risk was brought to their attention by the inspection.
2. There were two trailing flexes accessible to children in the Wobbler 3 room. It is acknowledged that the children in this room were supervised at all times. However, trailing flexes pose a risk of injury to the children. This non-compliance was observed during the previous two inspections and the preventive action had not been sustained.
3. A toy truck was observed to be broken in the Wobbler 3 room. This posed a pinch risk. It is acknowledged that the broken toy was removed by a staff member once the identified risk was brought to their attention by the inspector.
4. There was documentary evidence to show that the daily risk assessment displayed in the Wobbler 3 room had not been completed on the day of the inspection. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in September 2024 and the preventive action had not been sustained.

Infection Control:

The practices and equipment in the service did not ensure that effective infection control measures were in place to reduce the spread of infection.

5. In the Wobbler 1 room, a large wipeable climbing mat was torn at the four corners which exposed the foam inside. This prevented adequate cleaning of the mat and presented a risk of choking should the children ingest the foam. This non-compliance was observed on the previous two inspections and the preventive action had not been sustained.

6. Sleep mats were observed to be stored in a way that did not support infection control. For example, the sleep mats were observed to be stored on top of each other with the bed linen in place before sleep time. This meant the bottom of the sleep mat which appeared unclean was touching off the clean bed linen on the sleep mat. The sleep mats with the same linen were then observed to be used for sleeping children. This presented a risk of cross infection.
7. The changing mat used for nappy changing in the Toddler 2 sanitary accommodation was observed to be torn with foam exposed. This prevented adequate cleaning.
8. The bins in the sanitary accommodation used by the ECCE 1 and Junior Montessori children were not lidded. This did not allow for hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
9. The water throughout the service was not sufficiently warm and hand paper towels were not available in the ECCE sanitary accommodation. This does not support effective hand washing procedures. Children should be facilitated to wash their hands under warm running water, with liquid soap and paper hand towels provided in line with HSPC guidance in relation to infection control protection measures.

Safe Sleep:

10. The registered provider did not follow Tusla's "Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months". Evidenced by the following.
 - An individual sleep plan was not available for two children under 2 years of age who were provided with a mattress with a minimum depth of 6cms to sleep on. Sleep plans should include an assessment of the individual child's sleep routines and sleep requirements, to be determined and agreed in collaboration with parents/guardians and consideration of the child's developmental readiness to move from a cot to a floor bed.
 - In addition, there was no documentary evidence of a risk assessment of the sleep environment. This posed a risk of safety.

Fire Safety:

11. Children's attendance records were not maintained and updated as children arrived in the service. One child who was present on the morning of the inspection had not been recorded by staff as present. This posed a risk of the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency. A similar non-compliance was observed during the previous two inspections and the preventive action has not been sustained.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. It was highlighted to all staff that all cleaning agents should be behind a locked door at all times. The importance of security of cleaning agents was further discussed and emphasised at a staff meeting on 31/05/25.
2. All rooms were checked by staff or trailing flexes. Any trailing flexes were encased in flexible trunking.
3. Broken toy was removed once highlighted on the day. Weekly risk assessment of toys was highlighted at staff meeting on 31/05/2025.
4. Daily Risk Assessment Form for Wobbler 3 had been filled out daily up until the day of inspection. Failure to complete the form by the time of inspection was highlighted to the staff in charge.

Infection Control:

5. A new mat was purchased for the room. It was highlighted to staff the importance of risk assessment of their room and to dispose of items which pose a safety hazard.
6. Staff have been reminded to check that sheets have been removed from the mattresses before storing. Staff were reminded of the importance of the infection control policy at the staff meeting on 31/05/2025.
7. The nappy changing mat has been replaced with a new one. Staff were reminded to check nappy changing mats on a regular basis.
8. The staff were reminded to keep the lids of the nappy changing bins always attached and to use the pedal on the bin. The staff were reminded of the importance of the hygiene policy at the staff meeting on 31/05/2025.
9. Once this was highlighted, the boiler was boosted, and the water reached the required temperature. The temperature of running water will be checked at opening time in future. It was highlighted to the staff the importance of checking that the correct supply of hand towels and liquid soap is available in each room to facilitate the correct procedure of handwashing at the staff meeting on 31/05/25.

Safe Sleep:

10. The two missing sleep plans had been filed in the wrong location and were found and presented on the day. A new Risk Assessment for the Sleep Rooms was created and signed by the Parents.

Fire Safety:

11. It was highlighted to that staff member the importance of immediately recording the arrival of a child on the attendance record. At the staff meeting on 31/05/25 the importance of maintaining accurate attendance records to facilitate the safe evacuation of children in an emergency was emphasised to the staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No supporting documentation submitted.
2. Photographic evidence of trailing flexes encased in flexible trunking.
3. No supporting documentation submitted.
4. No supporting documentation submitted.

Infection Control:

5. Photographic evidence of new mat.
6. No supporting documentation submitted.
7. Photographic evidence of new nappy changing mat.
8. No supporting documentation submitted.
9. No supporting documentation submitted.

Safe Sleep:

10. Documentary evidence of new safe sleep risk assessment.

Fire Safety:

11. No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action plan have addressed the non-compliances identified 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) There was evidence to show that three adults hold certification in First Aid Response training, the three adults were available during the duration of the inspection.
- (2) (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on a shelf in the care room.
- (b) The first aid box was observed to be easily available to the adults caring for the 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 of monthly fire drills was available in the service. The most recent fire drill took place on 18 April 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced in June 2024. Smoke alarms were serviced on 11 November 2024.

- (2) (c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the hallway, care rooms and in the sleep cot room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance for the number of children in attendance. The insurance certificate is valid until 27 March 2026.