

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2017TY502
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rainbow Tyone Pre-School & Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Beechdale, Tyone, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E45 H662
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Cordelia Cormack
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/05/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	35	PM	35
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L McGeeney
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This full day care service was established in 2017 to provide care and education to children aged 1 – 6 years old. The service operates Monday – Friday, 7.30am – 6.30pm for 49 weeks of the year. This includes a three-hour sessional service funded under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children which operates 9am – 12pm, Monday – Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

The service is operated from a detached, two storey premises in the town of Nenagh in north Tipperary which was converted from residential premises for the purpose of operating an early years service. The children have access to four activity rooms downstairs, two activity rooms upstairs, sanitary accommodation areas, sleep room and outdoor play areas. There is also a kitchen and staff room in the premises.

This is a sister service to Rainbow Preschool and Childcare Centre, Dromin Road, Nenagh and Rainbow, St Mary's also located in Nenagh.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work in this service but is available to call on if required. The service manager is the person in charge on a daily basis. There are nine staff employed in the service, all of whom work directly with the children. Staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5, 6 or 8 on the national qualifications framework.

### 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(2)(4), 11, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation (number and name of regulation) ...As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms name 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 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

The staff files of all nine staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process which included the files of seven staff who were working in the service at the time of the last inspection on 30 November 2022 and two staff who have commenced working in the service since that date.

(2)(a) There were written, validated references from past employers available in respect of each member of staff.

(b) There were written, validated references from a source other than a past employer available in respect of three members of staff.

(c) Garda vetting had been carried out in respect of each member of staff. The service ensured that each member of staff was re-vetted every three years. All relevant records were held on file.

(d) Police vetting had been carried out in respect of staff who had lived outside the state and relevant records were held on file.

(4) All staff held recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels

### 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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

*(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 sufficient staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The staff and children were divided between three age groupings:

Baby room: There were 2 staff and 8 children aged 18 months – 2 years old.

Junior Pre-school: There were 3 staff and 9 children aged 2 – 3 years old.

Pre-school: There were 2 staff and 18 children aged 3 – 5 years old.

In addition, the service manager was available to support the staff and children in the rooms. The assistant manager worked in the Junior Pre-school room and was also responsible for preparing dinner.

In the afternoon, 3 children who attended the Preschool in the morning had gone home and 3 children who had attended Rainbow St Mary's in the morning had arrived, which kept the overall number of children present on the day at 35.

(2) and (4) The adult to child ratio was maintained within the requirements throughout the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff present in the service while it was in operation.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service was well equipped with furniture, toys and materials, both indoors and outdoors, that were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children using them.

Furniture in each room included chairs and tables for table top activities and dining. In the Baby room there were highchairs for the children who required them for mealtimes. Each room also had comfortable seating for rest and relaxation.

Toys and materials were stored on open shelving units where they could be easily accessed by the children when required.

The larger outdoor area was used by the children aged over 2 years old and contained swings, climbing frames, a slide, treehouse and ride-on toys such as balance bikes and tricycles. This area had been refurbished since the last inspection and now had soft fall matting over the ground surface which was flush with the concrete path that ran around the perimeter of the building.

The second outdoor play area was directly accessible from the Baby room and was primarily used by the younger children. This area had a covered space which supported outdoor play in all weathers. This space had a pallet covered with artificial grass that could be used as a raised play area or as a seating area, on one side of which there was a playhouse and on the other a mud kitchen. There was also a storage shed which was set up for play with a play house and large construction shapes. The floor of the shed was covered with artificial grass. The open area had a water play unit, a ball play area with goal net and ride-in toys such as a police car and bubble car. The tarmacadam surface had games painted on it.

The sleep room was furnished with four standard cots with fitted mattresses and there was a supply of clean sheets and blankets for use by the children who slept in the cots.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy and staff encouraged healthy eating in the service. The children's snacks were supplied by their parents. Perishable foods were stored in fridges in each room. The children brought their own drinks of water or squash in bottles or drinking cups which were refilled with water when required. The staff provided the children with drinks of milk or water at mealtimes. A jug of water and cups were brought outside to the children on the day of inspection so that they could have a drink when they wanted one.

The service had introduced a new food supplier for the daily dinner since the last inspection on 30 November 2022. Food was delivered frozen each week. The planned meal for each day was heated up in the ovens supplied by the catering company and served to the children. The meals were portioned in rectangular trays with approximately 12 portions in each tray. There was sufficient food available for the children to have second helpings if they wanted them. There was a two-week menu plan for dinners. The current week's menu was displayed on the noticeboard in the entrance hall where parents could see it. Dinner on the day of inspection was pork meatballs with mashed potato, cauliflower, broccoli and gravy. There was an alternative for the child who did not eat pork.

One child had a fish allergy which was considered when planning the meals for the service.

### 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 service was kept secure and children were prevented from leaving the premises unsupervised or from accessing the roadway in front of the premises. The door into the entrance hall was kept open to allow parents and children to take shelter while they waiting to be admitted. The inner door to the premises from the entrance hall was kept secured, with entry to the service managed by the staff. The inner door had glass panels so that staff would see who was seeking entry before opening the door to them.

The outdoor areas were fully enclosed by a combination of concrete walls, wooden panel fencing, hedges and mesh fencing. There were metal doors securing the access from the outdoor play areas to the front of the premises. New fences, rails and gates had been erected at the front of the premises since the last inspection. These allowed the front of the premises to be closed up when required.

The children who were accommodated in the upstairs rooms used the stairs to access their rooms. Staff supervised the children when on the stairs and made sure they used the handrails provided.

Hot water for hand washing was thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C. A new air to water heating system had been installed in the service since the last inspection which ensured that there was hot water for hand washing at all times during the day and throughout the year.

### Infection Control:

The children and staff practiced good hand hygiene with hand washing encouraged after outdoor play, using the toilet or nappy changing and before eating.

The premises was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Staff were responsible for cleaning as they went along, especially of surfaces such as the tables and the floors.

### Administration of Medication:

Medications were stored safely in a labelled container on a shelf of the office. Prescription medication was labelled with the name of the child for who it was intended and staff checked the expiry dates of medications kept in the service such as the adrenaline auto injector.

The service had a medications policy and signed parental consent was sought prior to medications being administered to a child attending the service.

An action care plan was in place for the child with an allergy to fish.

### Safe Sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy. Children were monitored while they slept and sleep checks were carried out and recorded at ten-minute intervals.

None of the children slept during the inspection period. Staff said that most of the children had ceased their daytime naps or only required them occasionally.

**Fire Safety:**

Fire escape routes were kept clear of obstruction.

New doors and windows had been installed in the service since the last inspection including new fire exit doors.

### 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) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on 17 April 2024.

(b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms and firefighting equipment in the service. Firefighting equipment was serviced annually, most recently in December 2023. The smoke alarms were wired into the electric system of the premises and checked regularly.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall at each point where firefighting equipment was installed.

## 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 were well supervised at all times. On the day of inspection the children spent a lot of time outside. The staff positioned themselves in strategic places around the outdoor play areas to ensure that each child was within the line of vision of at least one member of staff and near play equipment where they could supervise and assist the children using the swings, slide and climbing equipment.

Staff sat with the children during mealtimes to supervise and support them.

The children using the upstairs rooms were supervised when using the stairs by one staff going to the front of the line of children and the other going to the back so that they could control the speed at which the children walked on the stairs and to remind them to hold onto the handrail.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had current insurance cover for a full day care service with a maximum of 50 children present at any one time valid until 27 March 2025.