

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020TY017SA
Name of School Age Service:	Rainbow Pre-School
Name of Registered Provider:	Cordelia Cormack
Address of School Age Service:	Dromin Road, Nenagh, Tipperary.
Eircode:	E45 VF29

Date of Inspection:	11 February 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	N/A	PM	36
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	J Dennehy & S O'Brien
Title:	Inspection Registration Manager & Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect
Tusla's 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).

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School Age Services

Description of Service:

Rainbow Pre-School is a privately owned school age service located in Nenagh, Tipperary. The service caters for children aged 4 to 12 years. The service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 12pm and 12pm to 6.30pm. The registered provider outlined that the service is currently operating from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The school age service operates from three care rooms. Two of which contain partitions so the rooms can be made into two smaller rooms, giving five different spaces in total. There is an outdoor area to the front of the building. An early years service also operates from this premises. The registered provider is a multiple provider and operates four early years services.

Staffing:

There are 34 adults attached to this service. The registered provider is based across the four early years services. Students are currently carrying out work placement in the service.

Additional Information:

This inspection was triggered by information received by the inspectorate.

Legislation

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of School Age Services in Ireland, and its role is to promote and monitor the safety and quality of school age care provision in accordance with the following legislation:

- The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Part 12.
- Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.
- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018).

A school age service means any early years service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service which:

- caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- provides a range of activities that are developmental, educational and recreational in manner, which take place outside of school hours, the primary purpose of which is to care for children where their parents are unavailable, and
- the basis for access to which is made publicly known to the parents and guardians of the children referred to in point (a) above.

It is the responsibility of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of school age children and the above legislation authorises Tusla to assess compliance with the Regulations.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection is unannounced to assess compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018), Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

The findings on inspection are gathered through a triangulation method, including:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation.
- Direct observation.
- Discussion with relevant staff.

This inspection aims to determine the extent to which service is appropriate for the care, safety, and wellbeing of children in accordance with the regulations cited above.

Inspection findings are documented in the School Age Services 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 corrected the non-compliance and how they will prevent them 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 CAPA 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.

Acknowledgements:

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provider, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

On inspection, the registered provider was found compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 7: Notification of change in circumstance
- Regulation 9: Staffing levels
- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints

On inspection, the registered provider was found non-compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service
- Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. The non-compliance found under regulation 58(g) remains outstanding. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Regulation 7: Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a school age service shall, subject to paragraph (2), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the school age service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 6(2) or 6(3) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider is aware that they must notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the school age service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 6(2) or 6(3) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service 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.

(2) The procedures specified in paragraph 1 shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the manager of the service, it was determined that 14 new adults had been employed since the previous inspection. A total of 14 files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for eight staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

(a) Eleven of the references available were from a past employer. Nine of the references were validated.

(b) Fourteen of the references available were from an alternative source and were validated.

(c) Garda vetting had been obtained for 12 of the adults. Two of the adults did not require Garda vetting as they were under the age of 18 years. An additional eight adults Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed as they were identified as due for renewal. Seven of the Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed. The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Four police vetting disclosures were available in respect of four adults who had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)

(a)&(b)

1. Three references were not available in respect of three adults.

2. Two references from a previous employer were not validated.

(c) Garda vetting was available for one adult; however, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

(d) On review of one adults curriculum vitae, it was observed that the adult had lived outside of a state for longer than 6 consecutive months and a police vetting disclosure was not available for this state.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

On 12 February, the service submitted the following documentation:

- (a) Two reference validations from a previous employer were submitted.
- (b) Three references and validations from an alternative source were submitted
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure in respect of one adult was submitted.
- (d) A police vetting disclosure was submitted in respect of the one staff member who required it.

Preventive Action

- (a)(b) A staff recruitment checklist has been introduced to ensure all staff provide two references prior to commencing employment. References will be validated and recorded using a reference verification form and retained on the staff file. Evidence of the verification form was submitted.
- (c) A Garda vetting monitoring system has been implemented to ensure that all Garda vetting is renewed within the required three-year time frame.
- (d) The recruitment and vetting procedure have been reviewed to ensure that any time spent living outside of Ireland for six months or more after the age of 18 is identified. A residency history section has been added to the recruitment checklist and management will ensure that the vetting is obtained where required before a person starts employment or placement.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of competent and suitable adults on the premises while the service is operating.*
- (2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children at all times while the service is operating.*
- (4) A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the school age children attending the service are appropriately supervised at all times.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were adequate adults to care for the children during the inspection. Review of attendance records indicated that adequate ratios were maintained during operational times.
- (2) On the day of inspection, the adult child ratios were adhered to. There were 36 children being cared for by 8 adults on the day of inspection. The person in charge and the deputy manager were also available to support as required.
- (4) It was observed that the adults supervised the children at all times during the inspection. The adults were observed chatting and playing with the children. The children were observed by sight and sound.

Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the policies and statements specified in Schedule 6 are in place for the service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

On the day of inspection, the following policies were reviewed:

- Complaints policy

- Managing behaviour policy
- Statement of purpose and function

The inspector reviewed the policies and they were observed to contain the information required as per Regulation 10 and Schedule 6 of the regulations.

Regulatory Requirement not met

On the day of inspection, the drop off and collection policy was reviewed and was found to not contain all the required information. The policy did not have the required risk assessments completed as outlined for transporting child by car or by foot to and from the service. Risk assessments are required to ensure that the service is identifying and mitigating against any possible risks. As the service did not have the required risk assessments completed this posed a possible risk to the safety of the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response

Corrective Action

On 12 February, the service submitted the following documentation:

- Updated dropping off and collection policy.
- A risk assessment in relation to a staff member becoming unwell.
- A risk assessment in relation to a missing/unaccounted for child.

Preventive Action

A review process has been implemented to ensure that all policies are supported by relevant and up to date risk assessments. Risk assessment will be reviewed annually and following any changes in service practice.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 28 March 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026. The service also had motor insurance used for the transportation of the school age children. These policies commenced on 09 September 2025 and expired on 08 September 2026.

Regulation 13: Complaints

- (1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies—*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*
- (2) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that—*
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the school age service, and*
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall—*
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and*
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.*
- (4) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that the parents or guardians of children attending the service are aware of the service's complaints policy.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1) The registered provider ensured the complaints policy of the service:
- (a) Outlined the procedure to follow by a person when making a complaint in relation to the service.
 - (b) Outlined the manner in which the complaint is dealt with.
 - (c) Outlined the procedures for keeping the complainant informed on how the complaint will be dealt with.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A record in writing was kept of complaints made in respect of the service as outlined in the service's complaints policy. In discussion with the person in charge, it was determined that the service had received two complaints to date and the records of the complaint were made available to inspectors.
- (4) The services complaints policy was accessible within the service at the request of parents attending the service.

Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

It shall be the duty of every person providing an early years service to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with regulations made by the Minister under this Part.

Regulatory Requirement Met

- The children were divided between five different care spaces within the service. The Orange room was the designated homework room and children were afforded the opportunity to stay in this room and complete their homework. This space catered for up to nine children at any one time. The space was quiet so children could complete their homework as well as receiving one to one support as required.

- One staff member provided an oversight role ensuring that collection was facilitated from school at different times dependant on children's individual schedules and ensuring that each child had an opportunity to complete their homework. They were also available to speak to parents or guardians at collection time.
- All snacks for the children were provided by the parents or guardians. Children were given ample time to eat snacks. Handwashing was facilitated prior to snack time and when entering the service.
- The care rooms had a number of resources appropriate to the age and stage of the children's development such as puzzles, board games, plastic bricks and art materials.
- Each group of children was given the opportunity to play outside on a daily basis weather dependant.
- The service had a form to record accidents and incidents. There was one accident recorded in relation to the school age service since September 2025. This accident form was reviewed and deemed to contain all of the required information.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. One toilet seat was not available in the sanitary facilities being used by the school age children. This posed a possible safety risk to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

An inspection took place and it was identified that the full toilet needed to be replaced. A qualified person has assessed the issue, and the required parts have been ordered. The toilet is not currently in use. The repair will be completed immediately upon receipt of the part.

Preventive Action

Regular checks of facilities and equipment are now carried out to ensure the safety and suitability. Any issues found will be logged and addressed promptly. Any unsafe facilities will be removed

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from use until the repairs are completed. The manager will oversee ongoing compliance and child safety.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate.
The non-compliance remains outstanding and this will be reviewed on the next inspection.