

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021DR002				
Name of Service:	Little Rainbows Santry				
Address of Service:	The Ashes, Santry Place, Santry, Dublin 9				
Eircode:	D09 F620				
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Campbell				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	13/05/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>69</td> <td>PM</td> <td>66</td> </tr> </table>	AM	69	PM	66
AM	69	PM	66		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson and E. Griffin
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Little Rainbows Santry is a full day care service located in a residential apartment complex in the Dublin 9 area of north County Dublin. Established in 2021, Little Rainbows is one of three services owned by the registered provider and delivers early childhood care and education to children aged one to six years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme which is delivered from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

This purpose-built premises is on the ground floor of the building. There are five care rooms running off the main corridor to include Little Bunnies (1 to 2 years), Little Monkeys (15 months to 2 years), Little Bears (2 to 3 years), Little Explorers (3 to 5 years) and Busy Bees (2 years and 8 months to 5 years). There are sanitary facilities directly located off each of the care rooms, and the cot room is located off Little Bunnies.

There is a kitchen, an office and staff facilities with sanitary accommodation available, and an area designated as a sensory space for children to take a break from the care rooms.

The outdoor play area is situated to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

Little Rainbows employs a total of 26 staff, including a chef and a cleaner. There are 17 childcare staff who work directly with the children with four relief staff, in addition to an area manager, the person in charge and an administrator who work in the service in a supernumerary capacity managing the oversight of the service and provide support where needed across the rooms. There were 20 adults including a student present on the day of the inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 8. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under:

- Regulation 19 (1)(a)-Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Little Bunnies, Little Bears and Little Monkeys and did not include Little Explorers, Busy Bee's and the outdoor area.

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.

Additional Information

A referral was made to Tusla SOORS (Services Operating Outside of Registered Status); please see Regulation 8 for further information.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN 0344	13/05/2026	Documentation available and the storage of prescribed emergency medication for four children was insufficient which posed a significant risk of safe administration of medication.
Status	Action was taken by the person in charge immediately following the issue of the notice and the person in charge submitted a written response which detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not notify the agency of a change in service type.

Documentation was available that established that five children had attended the service whilst they were under the age of one year old. The age profile the service is registered for is for children in the 1-to-6-year age range.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service confirmed the relevant department that they will not operate outside of approved registration and ensure that infants will not commence in the service until after their first birthday.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 has been adequately addressed.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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) The registered provider ensured that;
 - (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) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that 14 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection and 13 of these new staff members work directly with the children. Two students, one who was present on the day, attend on an educational work placement programme. A total of 16 full files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting disclosures for 5 adults were requested for review.
The registered provider had completed the following checks:
 - (a) Twenty-three validated written references were available from recent past employers.
 - (b) Nine validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 21 reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Documentary evidence was available that established that 11 adults had lived in a state other than Ireland for more than six months, and international police vetting was available from that state.
- (3) Documentary evidence available showed that all of the checks outlined in (2) had been carried out prior to any of the adults having contact with the children in the service.
- (4) There was documentary evidence available that the 13 staff who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Framework of Qualifications or 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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs.
- There were 13 qualified staff available to 69 children present on the morning of the inspection and 66 children present in the afternoon.
 - In addition, there was an additional staff member, the administrator, the person in charge and the area manager who are qualified and available to provide support when needed.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection.

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) The registered provider ensured the following measures were in place to facilitate the children's learning, development and wellbeing:

Basic Needs

- Practices such as mealtimes, nappy changing and toileting were observed to be timely and pleasant experiences for the children. Documentary evidence was available that showed mealtimes and nappy changing were regular.
- There was a routine displayed in the care rooms which reflected the practice on the day, and the children and staff appeared to be familiar with the routine. Established routines support predictability and comfort for children.
- There was a daily schedule for access to the outdoor play area, and the children had been observed to access the outdoor play area on the morning of the inspection, prior to heavy rain in the afternoon.
- Staff were observed to prepare the environment in advance for transitions between activities such as mealtime to sleep. This resulted in smooth, timely transitions which can support children's comfort.
- Staff were observed to tend to children's personal care needs. For example, children were provided with bibs ahead of mealtime, and their hands and face were cleaned after eating.

Supporting Relationships

- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner.
- Engagement with families and parents was facilitated via conversations at drop off and collection, where updates on the children's day which were recorded on the daily sheet were shared.
- The furniture and equipment were positioned to encourage individual play, small and large group activities which can facilitate pro-social development and communication.

Physical and Material Environment

- Images of the children and their families were displayed throughout the service promoting the child's sense of inclusion in the setting.
- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for children attending, with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- There was a variety of age-appropriate play materials available to the children to support a range of play experiences such as role and imaginary play, small world play, construction and mark making.
- There was an area in the care rooms where the children could take a break from activities and rest.

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 entry to the service was secured when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service. The door was secured with a magnetic lock system which was managed and monitored by staff. The internal door to the hallway was also secured by a magnetic lock. This restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The kitchen was observed to be inaccessible to children throughout the inspection.
- All blind cords were appropriately secured out of reach of children.
- Hazardous items were observed to be stored up high out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The premises appeared to be in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and appropriately dispensed paper towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Staff were observed to support children to hand wash before and after mealtime.
- Children soothers were stored appropriately in individually labelled lidded containers.
- Children's nappy creams were observed to be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were observed to complete physical checks on the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every ten minutes, and a log was maintained of these checks.

Fire Safety:

- Children's attendance in the premises was accurately recorded in the daily attendance record.

Non-Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

General Safety:

1. The tall shelving unit and lockers in the hallway by the Little Bunnies room were not secured to the wall and were observed to be unstable. This posed a potential injury risk to the children.
2. A trailing flex from the air cooler unit in the Little Bears room was accessible to children in the afternoon and posed a potential injury risk.

Infection Control:

The following increased the potential risk of infection:

3. The practice for disposing of sanitary waste was not in line with hygienic practice and increased the potential risk of cross contamination. The following was observed:
 - The lid of the nappy bin was observed to be overflowing as the lid was propped open and was not in use during four nappy changing procedures. This posed a risk of cross infection.
 - There was no bin liner in use in the bin for used paper towels in the sanitary area between the little Bears and Little Monkeys.
4. The drinking cups used in the Little Bears room were stored directly adjacent to the sink used for the children's handwashing. This potentially increased the risk of cross contamination.

Administration of Medication:

5. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0344 served.

Safe Sleep:

The following was not in line with safe sleep guidance and the service policy on safe sleep.

6. A child under the age of two years old was observed to sleep on a sleep mat. Children under the age of two years old require access to a floor bed with a suitable mattress depth of between 6 to 15 cm depth.
7. Although it is acknowledged there were templates available for the daily sleep risk assessment of the sleep environment while children sleep on floor beds, there was evidence that these had not been maintained contemporaneously in a consistent manner. Sleep risk assessments should be completed on a daily basis prior to children sleeping.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- The space between the sleeping mats in the Little Bears room and the cots in the Little Bunnies room was not an adequate space to comfortably tend to sleeping children should the need arise. This could impede accessing sleeping children in the case of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The registered provider confirms the shelving unit was removed and replaced with a lower-level unit, the lockers were removed from the hallway and put into the staff room. They will ensure there will be no tall units or lockers in the hallway going forward.
- Brackets were fitted to secure the wire. Staff were reminded to ensure they inform management to reposition if trailing.

Infection Control:

- The registered provider confirms that all bins have been filled with bin liners for tissues, paper towels and wipes. The lid of the bin in the Bunnies nappy changing area was readjusted. Staff were made aware to use the pedal for the bin to open and close it, to not put the nappy on top but in the bin and pushed down
- The registered provider confirms that the cups were moved to a different location in the room and staff were reminded to ensure the cups stay at the 'hydration station'.

Safe Sleep:

- The registered provider confirms there is now a suitable floor bed available and will ensure that children under the age of 2 years will not sleep on sleep mats.
- The sleep risk assessments were reprinted, and the registered provider reports that staff were reminded to fill the sheets in on a daily basis and will ensure these will be checked by management.

Fire Safety:

- The registered provider confirms the furniture in the Little Bears room was rearranged to ensure in adequate space between each bed and that cots are now spaced evenly in Little Bunnies. They will ensure there will be sufficient space between cots and beds during sleep time.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence.
2. No evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

3. No evidence submitted.
4. Photographic evidence.

Safe Sleep:

6. Photographic evidence.
7. No evidence submitted.

Fire Safety:

8. Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider maintained the following:
- (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 16 April 2026.
 - (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were serviced in April 2026, and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 13 May 2025.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each of the care rooms