

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021OY001
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Name of Service:	Rainbows and Butterflies Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	Garran an Chaisleain, 43 Heather Grove, Clara, Offaly, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R35 X953
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Name of Registered Provider:	Katelynn Kelly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	08/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	NA
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
Inspection undertaken by:	C.O' Connor Hughes
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
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Description of service

The service is registered to provide an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) to children aged 2- 6 years. The service operates from 09:30 to 12:30 and 13:00 to 16:00 on a Monday to Friday basis.

The premises is located within a single storey building and consists of two rooms, a pre-school room, staff room, sanitary accommodation and a kitchen. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. On-site parking and set down facilities are available. The service is urban in its location in a community centre managed by Respond in Clara, Co. Offaly.

Staffing

The registered provider employs three adults in the service. The registered provider and two adults were working directly with children on the 8 January 2026. An adult on work experience is employed on a part time basis in the service as a support person and was present on the day of the inspection.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well- being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9- Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11- Staffing Levels

Regulation 19- Health, Welfare and Development of the child (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)

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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The registered provider and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.

Four staff files including the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a previous employer in respect of the three staff members. Two written references were available for the registered provider.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the four staff files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(3)

The registered provider ensured that all staff had been vetted prior to their commencement of employment in the service.

(4)

The two staff members and the registered provider working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 to 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(7)(a)

Staff had read and signed the policies and procedures of the service.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- (1)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3)
There were fifteen children attending for the morning session supervised directly by two staff members and the registered provider.

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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

Children were observed to enjoy the various play activities in the indoor and outdoor environments supported by the staff. Children washed their hands before snack time and after using the toilet. Younger children had their nappy changed as needed during the inspection. The nappy changing procedure was carried out correctly in line with the service's nappy changing policy. Older children went to the toilet independently supervised by staff members.

Spare clothes were available for children if required. Children were encouraged to be independent and put on their coats and hats for outdoor play assisted by staff as required.

Children enjoyed a healthy snack provided by their parents which included various sandwiches, yoghurts, fruit and water to drink. A little helper system was in place as children assisted the staff to give out snacks to their peers. Perishable foods in children's lunches were stored in a refrigerator in the service.

The staff were positive towards children and were familiar with each child, their personalities and their daily routines. Staff used individual names, maintained eye contact and conversed with the children during play

activities, toileting and snack time. Good teamwork was observed amongst staff members as staff worked well together. Staff meetings are held on a monthly basis and evidence of the staff meetings were available for review.

The pre-school room was bright and colourful. Areas of interest included a home area, an artificial fish tank, puppets and a construction area. Children's outer wear clothing and wellingtons were noted in the pre-school room. Age and stage appropriate toys and materials were accessible to children on low level shelving.

Upset children were observed to relax in the rest area while a staff member read a story to them.

Children's photographs of "our family" was displayed and a family album was available to children to view during the day.

The outdoor play area was located at the back of the service and consisted of a grass and tarmac surface. Toys and equipment included a swing set, child sized table and chairs, small slides, a see saw, tyres, a mud kitchen and scooters. Children were observed to enjoy outdoor play activities to the front of the service.

The service works in partnership with parents. A verbal handover is given on collection. Information is shared with parents via a short messaging system (SMS) on a regular basis. Each child had their own learning journal depicting their play and work activities which is shared with parents at the end of the pre-school term. The registered provider stated that children are accompanied by their parents on their first day of school to help them settle into the service.

(2)(3)

Positive behaviour strategies were observed during the inspection in line with the service's behaviour management policy reviewed by the Inspector. Staff used a calm approach giving positive praise and encouragement to children. Reassurance and comforting techniques were used where appropriate by staff.