

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022DY001
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Name of Service:	Little Rainbows (Parkside Belmayne)
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Address of Service:	19 Parkside Row, Belmayne, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Monica Campbell
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/07/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	67	PM	63
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Nexus Building Block, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and Á Dunne
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 (Parkside Belmayne) is one of three services operated by the registered provider. The service is located within a three-storey purpose built childcare premises. There were nine care rooms over three floors, a kitchen, a staff room and two outdoor play areas, one to the rear of the service and one on the third floor of the building. The nine care rooms are Junior and Senior Wobblers, Junior and Senior Toddlers, Junior, Senior and Middle Preschool, Small Senior room and the Afterschool room. The service provides full day, part-time and sessional childcare education and care to children aged from 1 to 6 year of age and a service for school age children.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service and employs 34 staff to include the person in charge, deputy person in charge, a cleaner, cook and 30 childcare staff.

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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 29.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations 19, 23 and 29 as the inspectors spent time in the Junior and Senior Wobblers, Junior and Senior Toddlers, Junior and Middle Preschool, and not in the Senior Pre School room, Small Senior room or the Afterschool room.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and Regulation 11 Staffing levels were assessed in all care 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 person in charge, 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

(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

(2) The staff files of 34 employees employed in the service were reviewed.

(a) Forty-three validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Twenty-five validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and 34 employees employed in the service. However, 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 for all staff employed.

(d) International police vetting was available from 17 countries for staff who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adults.

(4) On review of documentation available 30 employees employed in the service and working directly with the children on the day of inspection had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) International police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

(3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in part (2)(a),(b) and (d) were not completed for all staff members before being appointed, assigned or allowed access to the children.

(4) On review of documentation available two employees employed in the service did not have evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that the staff member has now resigned from Little Rainbows, therefore we did not apply for the police vetting. To ensure future compliance we will ensure that the appropriate police vetting certificate is obtained.

(3) In response the service managers have re-read the recruitment regulations and Little Rainbows Recruitment policy and will ensure all staff references and police vetting are obtained and correct prior to staff members being appointed, assigned or allowed access to the children. Managers will allow more time between the date of appointment of new staff members and the date that the new staff members commence their duties in the service. Our Regulatory Manager will also oversee recruitment alongside management to ensure correct recruitment procedures are being followed.

(4) To address the staff members were requested to apply for Qualification Recognition Letters from the Department. In the meantime, both staff members were moved to our school age service until the documentation was available. Managers were reminded of the need to ensure that all staff member's qualifications should be

verified as listed on the Department's List of Approved Qualifications for employment in EY services and will pay closer attention to ensure qualifications on the DCYA List match the qualification being presented by future staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)(d) Confirmation that staff member has left service and staff review of service policy.
- (3) Staff review of service policy on recruitment.
- (4) Documentary evidence of application to department of Education for one staff member.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(4) remains outstanding as evidence that two staff members hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications has not been received by the inspectorate. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

(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 an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 18 staff working directly with 67 children aged between 1-6 years in the morning and 18 staff working with 63 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times.

Junior Wobbler Room: 3 adults caring for 3 children aged between 1-2 years in the morning and 2 adults caring for 4 children in the afternoon.

Senior Wobbler Room: 2 adults caring for 5 children aged between 1-2 years in the morning and 4 children in the afternoon.

Junior Toddler Room: 2 adults caring for 7 children aged between 1-3 years in the morning and afternoon.

Senior Toddler Room: 2 adults caring for 9 children aged between 2-3 years in the morning and 3 adults caring for 7 children in the afternoon.

Junior Preschool Room: 3 adults caring for 10 children aged between 2-3 years in the morning and afternoon.

Middle Preschool Room: 3 adults caring for 13 children aged between 3-4 years in the morning and 2 adults caring for 12 children in the afternoon.

Senior Preschool Room: 2 adults caring for 14 children aged between 3-4 years in the morning and 3 adults caring for 13 children in the afternoon.

Small Senior Room: 1 adult caring for 6 children aged between 3-4 years in the morning and afternoon.

(8)(a) On review of the service roster it was confirmed that two adults were present on the premises at all times.

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

Basic Needs

- The service provided all the snacks and meals eaten by the children which was observed to be in line with their healthy eating policy. Breakfast of cereal, milk and toast was available in the morning from 7.45-9.00am, a main meal of vegetable pasta was available at 11.00-11.30am, a tea of beans, bread and butter at 2.30pm and a snack of yogurt and breadsticks at 4.00pm.
- Young children had the opportunity to feed themselves appropriate to their age and stage of development. Supervision and support were readily available when needed.
- Rest and relaxation areas were available in all the care rooms and were freely available and used on the day for rest and when children wanted to read away from activities.

- Drinking water was readily available for the children in all the care rooms throughout the day.
- The children spent time outdoors during the day and for extended periods.

Supporting relationships

- Staff were observed to sit with the children during dinner and teatime, helping to create a relaxed environment.
- Staff supported parents when their child was settling into the service with a flexible approach being offered and available. Staff maintained daily records of each child's meals, sleeps, activities undertaken and nappy changes, these were shared with parents at collection. .

Physical and Material Environment:

- Low level shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor play environment was observed to be resourced with ride on bikes, scooters, slides and climbing frames. These promoted the development of skills such as balance, running, jumping, stopping, and facilitated risk play under the supervision of staff

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

1. Two children in the Senior Wobbler room aged from 16 and 17 months of age were not offered additional food at lunch time despite finishing their meal. Children at this age are unable to verbalise their needs and staff should be aware of the need to offer more food.
2. Staff in the Senior Toddler room did not place the sleeping mat in secure position, as a result the child was lying at an angle while sleeping, thus reducing the quality and length of sleep as the child was observed taking additional time to settle.

Physical and Material Environment:

3. Cause and effect toys in the Junior Wobbler room were not working, removing the play and developmental purpose of the toy from the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Basic Needs:

1. In response the service has stated that the room staff were reminded that they should be aware of the need to offer more food to the children in their care. To address a future staff training evenings will take place, and the service manager will remind all staff to be aware of the need to offer more food to the children in their care, particularly to young children that may be unable to verbalise their needs.
2. To address the non-compliance the room staff were reminded to place the sleeping mat in secure position on a flat surface to aide time it takes to settle children and, therefore, improve the quality of their sleep. Future staff training evenings and the service manager will remind all staff to be aware of the how floor mats are positioned to ensure that the children in their care settle and have better quality of sleep.

Physical and materials environment:

3. In response the service has stated that toys that were not working had the batteries replaced. Room staff were reminded that all toys, particularly cause and effect toys, are in working order daily. To ensure that a non-compliance is not repeated future staff training evenings will take place along with the service manager will remind all staff to check toys in their rooms and where any require fresh batteries then they should obtain these from the supply that is available in the service store.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Documentation relating to meeting held with staff. Staff review of service healthy eating policy.
2. Documentation relating to meeting held with staff. Staff review of service safe sleep policy.
3. Documentation relating to meeting held with staff. Service manager discussion with staff re non compliances.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 19(1)(a) have been addressed.

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:

- Children were supervised while in the reception area and exit from the service was restricted by an electronic lock which was positioned out of the children's reach.
- The outdoor areas were secured with a locked gate, high wall, and fence.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children on the day of the inspection.

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Infection Control:

- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children at regular intervals and when required.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after nappy changing, after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before and after mealtimes.
- During sleep time, cots and floor beds were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child.
- All mattresses used in the cots had washable wipeable covers present.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff maintained ten-minute sleep checks on all the children to include their colour, breathing and position. Shoes and excess clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- Staff recorded the temperature of the care rooms while children slept to ensure it remained within the recommended 18-22°C The temperature of the cot room while children slept was recorded as 21°C at 11.03am, the Senior Toddler room was 21.7°C at 11.52am and the Junior Toddler 21.7°C at 11.31am.

Fire Safety:

- Documentation available demonstrated that fire drills were completed in the service monthly. The emergency exit areas in the care rooms were observed to be unobstructed and clear of any obstacles during the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, the 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'.
2. There was evidence to demonstrate that regular and routine risk assessments were not completed by staff in the care rooms or outdoor area to reduce the potential risk of injury to a child. For example.
 - In the Junior Wobbler room, a blind cord was loose and not secured.
 - Cleaning materials and liquids were stored in unlocked cupboards accessible to the children in the Junior Toddler and Middle Preschool rooms.
 - Medication was placed within reach of a two-year-old child in the Junior Toddler room.
3. Staff did not ensure that accurate records of children's attendance in the service was maintained to ensure effective evacuation in the event of an emergency. For example.
 - In the Senior Wobbler room, a child that has not yet commenced in the service was recorded as being present and a child that arrived in the service at 9am was not recorded as being present until 11.40am.
 - In the Middle Preschool room at 12.22pm, 9 children were recorded as leaving the service at 12midday.

Infection Control:

4. The procedures and practice of storing children's soothers was not followed in the Middle Preschool room as five soothers were observed in an open dish and one soother was placed on a countertop. None of the soothers had children's names or other identifiable markings. This increased the risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Updated Garda Vetting has been obtained for the staff member. The service manager will ensure that regular checks be carried out to review the expiry dates of Garda Vetting documentation. An excel document has been created to keep a record of when training and Garda vetting renewals are due.

2. In response the service has stated that the following has been addressed.
 - A safety clip was obtained for the blind cord in the Junior Wobbler Room
 - All cleaning products were removed from the Junior Toddler and Pre-school Room
 - The medication was removed from the Junior Toddler Room
 - Future staff training evenings will take place along with the service manager reminding all staff to complete regular and routine risk assessments by staff in the classrooms and outdoor area to reduce the potential risk of injury to a child. The service manager will review these risk assessment forms on a routine and regular basis to ensure their effectiveness and to arrange routine and regular maintenance. All staff have been reminded that medicine must be stored in the medicine boxes provided and kept in a high cupboard.

3. In response the service has stated that room staff were reminded that they are responsible for ensuring and maintaining accurate records of children's attendance in the service to ensure effective evacuation in the event of an emergency. Management have updated registers by reducing column to ensure that they are easier to mark and clearer to read. Future staff training evenings will remind staff that they are responsible for ensuring and maintaining accurate records of children's attendance in the service. The service manager will review these attendance records on a routine and regular basis to ensure accuracy and that they are completed promptly.

Infection Control:

4. To address the non-compliance the service has stated that room staff were reminded to follow the existing service policy of identifying each child's soother, either by name or identifiable marking to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Soother compartment box was also provided, so that each child's soother is stored separately. Future staff training evenings will ensure that all staff are reminded by the service manager to follow the existing

service policy of identifying each child's soother, either by name or identifiable marking to reduce the risk of cross contamination. The service manager will carry out routine and regular inspections of the relevant rooms to ensure compliance with the service policies.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Renewed Garda Vetting. Service manager review of service recruitment policy.
2. Room risk assessment template and photographic evidence to support corrective actions. Staff review of service accident and incident policy.
3. Updated registers and staff training/meeting. Staff review of service policy child attendance policy.

Infection Control:

4. Documentation relating to meeting held with staff. Staff review of service infection control policy.

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 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) The registered provider ensured that one staff member was trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification with an expiry date of the 26 February 2027. It is acknowledged that two other staff members are currently undertaking First Aid Responder (FAR) certification. On review of the staff roster a staff member with FAR was available to the children during the operation of the service.

(a) and (b) First aid boxes were displayed in an accessible and conspicuous position in the service and well equipped.

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)
- (a)
- The last recorded fire drills that took place in the service was the 18 June 2025.
- (b)
- The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was present in the service, the fire extinguishers were serviced in April 2025 and the smoke alarms on the 11 June 2025.
- (4)
- A notice of the fire procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency were clearly displayed in the care rooms and main reception of the service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
 - (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. Taps in the sanitary facilities used by the children in the Junior/Senior Wobbler sanitary, Senior Toddler care room, Junior/Senior Toddler sanitary and the Junior/Middle Preschool were observed to be loose fitting and difficult for a young child to operate.
 2. Flooring in the roof top garden was uneven and increased the potential risk of a trip or fall to a child

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. To address the non-compliance a plumber was engaged to tighten the taps in the sanitary facilities. At future staff training evenings, the service manager will remind all staff to complete regular and routine risk assessments in the classrooms and outdoor area to identify issues that may require maintenance. The Service Manager will review these Risk Assessment Forms on a routine and regular basis to ensure their effectiveness and arrange routine and regular maintenance.
2. In response the service has responded that a building contractor was engaged to attend to the flooring in the roof top garden to remove and unevenness and remove the potential risk of a trip or fall to a child. The service manager will remind all staff to complete regular and routine risk assessments by staff in the classrooms and outdoor area to identify issues that may require maintenance.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Template for completion of-risk assessments, documentation on staff meeting held and staff training on completion of documentation.
2. Garden picture and risk assessments, staff review of service accident and incident policy.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 29 (d) have been addressed.