

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



**Tusla I.D:** TU2024DY001

**Name of Service:** Little Rainbows Ltd

**Address of Service:** The Grove, Griffith Woods,  
Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.  
D09 A25C

**Email Address:** littlerainbowsgw@gmail.com

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Anne Campbell

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed service type:** Full Day Care

**Proposed Number of Children:** 122 children aged from 1 to 6 years of age

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection:** 117 children aged 1-6 years on a full day care basis.  
Or 122 children on a sessional basis

**Registered service:** Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 122 Children (Max 117 Full Day Care)

**Date of Inspection:** 2 2 0 3 2 0 2 4

**Inspection Undertaken by:** E Hosford and Á Dunne

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.

<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 122 Children (Max 117 Full Day Care)

**Date of Registration:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Little Rainbows propose to operate a service to provide sessional, part time and full day care to children aged between 1 to 6 years. The proposed service will operate from 7:45am to 6pm Monday to Friday and accommodate a maximum of 122 children.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service proposes to operate from a two-storey premises in a residential area on the north side of Dublin city. There are eight care rooms and one separate sleep room for use by the children, namely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the ground floor of the service are Little Chicks, Little Bunnies, Little Cubs, Little Bears, Little Monkeys, Busy Bees and Little Explorers, with Little Voyagers on the first floor.</li> <li>An enclosed outdoor area is situated to the side of the building.</li> </ul> <p>A service kitchen is provided for the preparation of meals for the children, sanitary facilities for staff and children and an administration office.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	The service proposes to employ 27 staff to include, the designated person and deputy person in charge, a cook, and 24 childcare staff. The registered provider will not work within the service and the designated person in charge will not be assigned to a care room but will be available to assist if required.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under four themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, person in charge and the area manager who were present on the day of the inspection.

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### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named staff member will be available to deputise as required.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider has proposed that the following number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service.

Room Name	Number of Adults	Number and age profile of children.
Little Chicks	3	11 Children (1-2 years)
Little Bunnies	3	12 Children (1-2 years)
Little Cubs	3	13 Children (2-3 years)
Little Bears	3	13 Children (2-3 years)
Little Monkeys	3	14 Children (2-3 years)
Busy Bees	3	17 Children Sessional (2 years 8 months-4 years) Or 14 Children Full day care (2 years 8 months-4 years)
Little Explorers	3	22 Children Sessional (2 years 8 months-4 years) Or 20 Children Full day care (2 years 8 months-4 years)
Little Voyagers	3	22 Children Sessional (2 years 8 months-4 years) Or 22 Children Full day care (2 years 8 months-4 years)

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	<b>Total</b>	24	119 Full day care Or 124 Sessional
	Calculated as per Schedule 6 Adult: Child Ratios Part 1 Full day care service or part-time day care service.		

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

#### Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—
- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
  - (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,

#### Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.  
The service comprises of eight care rooms which were laid out as follows.

#### **Little Chicks, Little Bunnies, Little Cubs, Little Bears and Little Monkeys:**

The care rooms are bright and have low level shelving to enable the children to access the play materials. Each room has areas of interest to include a home area with a play kitchen and supporting equipment such as play food, pots, pans, and utensils. Building and construction areas have blocks, stacking cups, shape sorters, cars, and trucks.

Tables and chairs of appropriate height are available for the children with suitable chairs for younger children.

Rest areas have soft matting, child sofas, cushions, and books.

#### **Busy Bees and Little Explorers, with Little Voyagers:**

The care rooms have tables and shelves which are accessible to the children and contain puzzles, jigsaws, games, and bead boards. Play kitchens are furnished with supporting equipment to include pots, pans, and utensils. Construction areas have blocks, shapes, cars, and train tracks. Rest areas are available and consist of soft mats, child sofas, cushions, and books.

The Little Voyagers room has an outdoor balcony area which the children will have access to throughout the day.

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	<p><b>Outdoor Area:</b> The outdoor area is positioned to the side of the service and has an upper and lower level which are surfaced with a soft artificial poured surface material. The play materials available to the children include ride on bikes, scooters, climbing frames, activity tables and cars.</p> <p>(1)(b) Suitable window blinds are available in the care rooms to create a restful sleep environment for the children during sleep and rest time.</p> <p>Children under the age of two years have access to 14 standard cots and 4 low beds. Children over the age of two years will be facilitated on floor mats. Rest areas are provided in each of the care rooms to enable a child to take a break from activities if needed. The rest areas consisted of mats, cushions, and child size chairs.</p> <p>The service does not provide an overnight pre-school service.</p> <p>(3)(a) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service has an outdoor area to the side of the premises enclosed by a high wall and two emergency exit doors which lead directly to a public path. The registered provider has submitted documentary evidence to demonstrate that a magnetic locking system will be installed on the 29 March 2024 to ensure that the doors cannot be operated by children and thus prevent them from exiting unsupervised.</p>
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### Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

#### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in operation within the service with all meals and snacks provided to the children attending. Breakfast, a morning snack, a hot meal at lunch time and an evening tea is available during the day with additional food and snacks available should a child become hungry between meals. Drinking water is available in all the care rooms if a child becomes thirsty.

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### 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.*

#### Requirement Met:

The requirement has been met.

- The main exit door from the service and two emergency exit doors from the outdoor area are currently operated by an emergency fire handle. The registered provider has submitted documentary evidence to demonstrate that a magnetic locking system will be installed on the 29 March 2024 to ensure that the doors cannot be operated by children and thus prevent them from exiting unsupervised.
- The blind cords in the sleep rooms are fitted and secured with cord restrictors.
- The play materials and equipment in the service are stored on stable-based low level shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children.
- The tables and chairs in the care rooms that are used for tabletop activities and mealtimes are the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- The emergency exit doors of the service are unobstructed.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors is inaccessible to the children.
- A system is available for the safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment.

### 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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge have First Aid Responder certificates available.
- (2)(a) The first aid boxes are suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.

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### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. Firefighting equipment was serviced in February 2024 and smoke detection on the 1 February 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the entrance hall and each care room of the premises. Clearly displayed fire assembly notices are available outside of the service to enable staff and children to identify the fire assembly point.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service has adequate insurance to cover 122 children from the 18 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

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(a) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and inspectors did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The main exit door from the service and two emergency exit doors from the outdoor area are currently operated by an emergency fire handle. The registered provider has submitted documentary evidence to demonstrate that a magnetic locking system will be installed on the 29 March 2024 to ensure that the doors cannot be operated by children and thus prevent them from exiting unsupervised.

(c) Each care room had windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights were fitted with shatter proof coverings.

Heating and ventilation are provided by an air-conditioning system throughout the service.

The temperature of the care rooms was recorded between 19.7°C and 21.9°C on the day of inspection.

The sanitary facilities and nappy changing areas were fitted with mechanical ventilation systems or windows to extract stale air.

(d) The care rooms were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule is available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

(e) All of the sanitary facilities are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems or windows.

Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap, paper hand towels and electric hand dryers are provided in all sanitary facilities and care rooms. Pedal bins are provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.

Staff members use separate sanitary facilities.

(e) Three sanitary facilities, one of which is a disabled toilet, consisting of a toilet and wash hand basin are available for staff and located off the main corridor of the service. One nappy changing unit for use by the children is present in the area.

There are sufficient sanitary facilities available in the service to accommodate the number and age profile of the children which the Registered Provider proposes to attend.

The sanitary facilities in the service comprised of the following.

Room Name	Facilities available
Little Chicks	1 nappy mat and 1 sink.
Little Bunnies	1 nappy mat and 1 sink.
Little Cubs	2 nappy mats and 2 sinks

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		2 toilets and 2 sinks
	<b>Little Bears</b>	
	<b>Little Monkeys</b>	1 nappy mat, 1 sink and 1 toilet. 1 nappy mat and 1 sink located in the disabled/staff toilet.
	<b>Busy Bees</b>	1 nappy mat and 1 sink located in the disabled/staff toilet.
	<b>Little Explorers</b>	2 toilets and 2 sinks
	<b>Little Voyagers</b>	2 toilets and 2 sinks
	<b>Total</b>	6 nappy mats 12 sinks 7 toilets

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.
- (4) 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 clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2) The table below illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for 117 children aged from 1- 6 years on a full day care basis and 122 on a sessional basis.

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Room Name	Proposed number of children and age	*Clear Floor Space available as per service	Floor space required per child	Floor space available as measured by inspectors and number of children that can be facilitated in rooms
<b>Little Chicks</b>	11 Children (1-2 years)	30.5 sqm	2.8 sqm per child	29.498 sqm 11 Children (1-2 years)
<b>Little Bunnies</b>	12 Children (1-2 years)	31 sqm	2.8 sqm per child	30.165 sqm 11 Children (1-2 years)
<b>Little Cubs</b>	13 Children (2-3 years)	31 sqm	2.35 sqm per child	31.68 sqm 13 Children (2-3 years)
<b>Little Bears</b>	13 Children (2-3 years)	42.63sqm	2.35 sqm per child	27.34 sqm 12 Children (2-3 years)
<b>Little Monkeys</b>	14 Children (2-3 years)	32 sqm	2.35 sqm per child full day care or 1.81 sqm sessional	33.27 sqm 14 Children (2-3 years)
<b>Busy Bees</b>	17 Children (2.5 to 5 years)	30 sqm	2.35 sqm per child full day care or 1.81 sqm sessional	31.4 sqm 17 Children sessional or 14 children **FDC (2.5 to 5 years)
<b>Little Explorers</b>	22 Children (2.5 to 5 years)	47 sqm	2.35 sqm per child full day care or 1.81 sqm sessional	45.44 sqm 22 Children sessional or 20 children FDC
<b>Little Voyagers</b>	22 Children (2.5 to 5 years)	58 sqm	2.35 sqm per child full day care or 1.81 sqm sessional	54.97 sqm 22 Children FDC or Sessional
<b>Total</b>				<b>117 children aged 1-6 years on a full day care basis. Or 122 children on a sessional basis</b>

\* \*FDC Full day care

\*Calculated as per Schedule 7 Minimum Space Requirements Full day care service or part-time day care service.

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Based on the information provided by the registered providers and designated person in charge regarding the proposed age profile within the care-rooms, the clear floor space available may accommodate the proposed number of 117 children aged from 1 to 6 years of age on a full time and part time and 122 children on a sessional basis.

(3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum space of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.

(4)(a) The minimum clear floor space is available for the duration of the sessional preschool service.

(b) The minimum clear floor space is available for a full day care service or a part-time day care service.