

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DY008		
Name of Service:	Little Rainbows (Main Street Belmayne)		
Address of Service:	Unit 1, Block 4, Walker Drive, Belmayne, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D13 AP6W		
Name of Registered Provider:	Monica Campbell		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	04/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	86	PM 71
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and C Kerrigan		
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.

Description of service

Little Rainbows (Main Street Belmayne) is a private service operating since September 2024 providing sessional, part time and full day care to children aged between 1 to 6 years. The service operates from 7.45am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and can accommodate a maximum of 132 children.

The service is situated on the ground floor of a residential complex on the northside of Dublin city and has eight care rooms, a separate sleep room for use by the children, an outdoor area to the rear of the service, a service kitchen for the preparation of meals, sanitary facilities for staff and children and an administration office.

The care rooms are:

- Junior and Senior Wobblers (1-2 years),
- Junior, Middle and Senior Toddlers (1-3 years),
- Junior, Middle and Senior Preschool (3-5 years).

Staffing

The registered provider employs 31 staff to include, 2 deputy staff in charge, an administration assistant, 2 cooks and 26 staff that work directly with the children. On the day of inspection, a staff member from another of the registered providers services was available to maintain ratios within the care rooms. The registered provider does not work directly with the children 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
- 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and 23, as a result the inspectors did not spend time in the Senior Preschool room during the inspection.

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 registered provider, 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

(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.

(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)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The deputy person in charge was present during the inspection.
- (c) A clear management structure was in place with staff being familiar with the roles and responsibilities of each member of the service.

(2) A total of 21 staff files were reviewed; this included 20 new staff employed in the service since the last inspection and the staff member that assisted in the care rooms from another branch of the service.

(a)

- Twenty-eight validated written references were available for staff from a recent past employer.

(b)

- Fourteen validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 32 staff members employed in the service. However, the service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) International police vetting was available from 17 countries in respect of 16 staff members who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available 20 staff members working in the service 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

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 adults working with 86 children in the morning and 16 adults working with 71 children in the afternoon.

(2) The adult to child ratios were maintained on the day of inspection as outlined below.

- **Junior Wobbler**- 3 adults were caring for 6 children aged 1-1.5 years in the morning and 2 adults caring for 5 children in the afternoon.
- **Senior Wobbler** 2 adults were caring for 10 children aged 1-2 years in the morning and 3 adults in the afternoon.
- **Junior Toddler**- 2 adults were caring for 8 children aged 1-2 years in the morning and in the afternoon.
- **Middle Toddler**-3 adults were caring for 9 children aged 1-2 years in the morning, and 2 adults were caring for 10 children in the afternoon.
- **Senior Toddler**--2 adults were caring for 8 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and in the afternoon.
- **Junior Preschool**- 2 adults were caring for 15 children aged 2-4 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday and 10 children on a full day care basis in the afternoon.
- **Middle Preschool**- 2 adults were caring for 10 children aged 2-4 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday and 1 adult caring for 7 on a full day care basis in the afternoon.
- **Senior Preschool**- 2 adults were caring for 20 children aged 3-4 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday and 13 children on a full day care basis in the afternoon.

(8)(a) On review of documentation available and on discussion with staff it was confirmed that two adults were present on the premises during the operation of the early years' service

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)

Basic Needs:

- The service provided a breakfast each morning of cereal and milk, followed by a hot meal at 11am of savoury rice with vegetables and an afternoon tea of soup and sandwiches. A snack of fruit and yogurts was provided at 4pm. Alternative food was available at mealtimes for children if needed with snacks of rice cakes and breadsticks stocked in each care room. Children availing of the sessional service could either eat their own food from home or the food provided by the service. Children had drinks of water throughout the day and at mealtimes.
- Children spent time in the outdoor area and were provided with suitable clothing and footwear when required.

Supporting Relationships around children:

- Adults were observed to support children to enable them to interact positively with other children by diffusing minor disagreements between children appropriately and modelling social skills. Small group activities were implemented to enable staff to develop relationships with the children and support them in their play interests.
- Parents and guardians had the opportunity to speak with staff at drop off and collection and discuss their child's day and activities undertaken. Additional information such as food eaten, sleep times and nappy changes were recorded by staff and shared with parents at collection.

Physical and material environment:

- The care rooms were bright with a range of play materials and equipment suitable and accessible to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room such as constructive, creative and imaginative play, with interest areas including home corners and small world play.

- Rest areas consisting of soft seating, stools and floor mats were available should a child require a break from activities or decide to sit and read a book from the library.
- The outdoor area was available to the rear of the service and was surfaced with an artificial grass surface. The play materials available to the children included ride on bikes, scooters, climbing frames, activity tables and cars. A sheltered area was available to enable the children to play in all weathers. Outdoor play was incorporated into the daily schedule of the care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

1. The transition of children from the garden to dinner time in the Senior Wobbler room was not managed by staff in a calm and organised manner. For example. From 10.40-11.16am the process was observed to be busy and disorganised as one staff member assisted the children with removing their wet coats while the other staff member started changing the children's nappies. As a result, the children began to get upset and disagree with one another. Staff continued to change the children's nappies while they sat at the table waiting for lunch. This did not support a relaxed and sociable experience for the children.

2. At 10.46 am in the Senior Wobbler room, when a child aged 18 months of age showed signs of tiredness by lying on the mat in the care room and closing their eyes, staff did not demonstrate awareness, responsiveness or flexibility in the care room routine and place them to sleep on a low contour bed. As a result, the child cried when placed sitting at the table for lunch at 10.50am and refused to eat any food. At 12.03pm, the same child was observed unable to settle to sleep. This practice was not child led to meet the individual needs of the child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that the Junior and Senior Wobbler rooms now have two key staff assigned to each room daily. In addition, a designated floater supports both rooms from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to assist with transitions and provide extra support when children are upset or need one-to-one attention. To improve efficiency and supervision during key transition periods, a timetable has been developed for the support staff member (floater). This ensures time is effectively shared between both the Junior and Senior Wobbler rooms providing more consistent support during busy periods and smoother transitions. Management have met with staff to reinforce the importance of carrying out only "one task at a time", while ensuring that one or more staff members are always supervising and engaging with the children.

Routine updates have been implemented to support smoother workflow and transitions throughout the day. The Manager will oversee operations to ensure that the "one task at a time" approach is consistently followed and maintained.

2. In response staff members have re-read the Inclusion Policy to remind them that routines are a guide and to structure the day but should be flexible to meet the children's individual needs.

Daily routines have been adjusted to follow a "one task at a time" approach ensuring staff can respond more attentively to children's individual cues (including tiredness), There is always one staff member available to supervise and offer comfort.

Staff will also be reminded at further staff meetings about the daily routines only being a guide and that routines must also be flexible to suit the children's needs. Managers will also continue to ensure that staff remain mindful of non-verbal cues, particularly in rooms with children who are not yet able to verbalise their feelings.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Timetable for support staff member, staff meeting agenda and signed statement for review of Inclusion Policy.
2. Policy signed statement Timetable, updated care room routines and signed statement for review of Inclusion Policy.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed and accepted the actions and evidence submitted. The actions stated to address the non-compliance under regulation 19(1)(a) will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 premises and outdoor play area were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people from gaining access to the service.
- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents, sharp implements, blind cords and flexes out of children's reach.
- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- Staff maintained a daily record of each child's arrival and departure to the service

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and bins.
- A refrigerator was available in the care room to refrigerate perishable food items from home.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facility.
- Children that required sleep were facilitated in cots and low beds which were placed with a minimum space of 50cm apart to reduce the potential risk of cross infection.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff maintained ten-minute sleep checks on all sleeping children to include their colour, breathing and position. A room thermometer was present in the room and staff recorded the temperature in the morning and when children slept in the afternoon. The temperature of the cot room and care rooms while children slept were recorded by the inspectors as between 19- 21.4°C which is within the recommended temperature of 18-22°C.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service and all fire equipment to include fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were serviced yearly. The designated fire exits were illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for one staff member.

Infection Control:

The infection control procedures and practices to reduce the potential risk of cross infection in the Senior Wobbler room were observed to be at variance with the service policy and best practice guidelines. For example.

2. At 11.00am while the children sat at the table waiting for dinner, staff provided each child with hand gel to clean their hands. This is at variance with the service policy which documents that warm running water and liquid soap should be used for effective hand hygiene before meals.

3. Nappy changing was not completed as per the service policy and best practice. This increased the potential risk of cross infection. For example.

- The staff member wore one glove for the procedure; two gloves are required.
- Staff touched the lid of the bin when disposing of the removed items, the pedal of the bin should be used.
- The nappy mat was not consistently cleaned between children.
- The children did not have their hands washed directly after nappy changing and before returning to the care room.

Safe Sleep:

4. Three children under two years of age were observed sleeping on low contour floor beds. Completed documentation was not available to demonstrate that parents had been communicated with, and their written permission was obtained before this practice commenced. This is at variance with best practice sleep guidelines issued to the sector in September 2023.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that they will continue to update the garda vetting as required.

Infection Control:

2. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that staff have re-read the Handwashing Policy and the Infection Control Policy and will implement the procedures consistently throughout their daily practice. Managers emphasised the importance of effective hand hygiene for both adults and children. The correct technique for handwashing, along with the key times when hands must be washed, were reviewed in detail. Handwashing was demonstrated at the staff meeting and staff were given the chance to practice. A clear Handwashing Procedure will be visibly displayed above all children's and staff handwashing sinks as a reminder and prompt for best practice.

3. To address the non-compliances staff have re-read the Nappy Changing and Toilet Training Policy as well as the Infection Control Policy to ensure consistent adherence to best practices. A clear and detailed Nappy Changing Procedure has been developed and shared with the team. Staff have been asked to read and familiarise themselves with this procedure. To support consistent implementation, the Nappy Changing Procedure will be displayed in the nappy changing area as a visual reminder, allowing staff to reference it as needed while carrying out the steps. During our staff meetings, managers will demonstrate the correct nappy changing procedure, followed by time for staff members to practise the procedure together.

Safe Sleep:

4. In response to the non-compliances the service managers and staff have re-read the centre's Safe Sleep Policy. Managers and staff were reminded to follow the correct protocol when a child (over 15 months and under 2 years of age) needs to transition from a cot to a floor bed and to ensure that the appropriate consent form is completed and signed by the parents prior to the transition.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Updated Garda vetting for one staff member.

Infection Control:

2 and 3. Handwashing and Infection Control Policy reviewed and signed by staff. Key times schedule for handwashing included into the routine. Handwashing technique and key times for washing hands..

Safe Sleep:

4. Safe sleep policy reviewed and signed by staff. Transitioning from a cot to floor bed procedure.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed and accepted the actions and evidence submitted. The actions stated to address the non-compliances under regulation 23 will be reviewed on the next inspection

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

(2)(a) and (b) A first aid box was available in the service and was suitably equipped and accessible to the adults responsible for caring for the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On review of the staff roster and on discussion with staff it was confirmed that a staff member with First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was not always available to the children attending the service. It is acknowledged that a staff member with paediatric first aid was available to the children at all times.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) To address the non-compliance training has been booked for 3 more staff, to ensure a FAR trained staff member will be on the premises during working hours. FAR training records will be maintained as part of our overall staff training records. This ensures that all FAR certificates are monitored for expiry and that FAR courses are booked well in advance to maintain compliance. FAR-trained staff members will be clearly marked on the staff rota, guaranteeing that there is always a qualified FAR-trained individual on the premises during operating hours.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Supporting evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed and accepted the actions and evidence submitted. The non compliance under regulation 25 has 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)

(a) The last recorded fire drill that took place in the service was on the 26 August 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was present in the service, both were serviced in Septemeber 2024.

(4) A notice of the fire procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency were clearly displayed in the care rooms to ensure the safe and effective evacuation of staff and children in the event of an emergency.