

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024DY008				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Rainbows (Main Street Belmayne)				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 1, Block 4, Walker Drive, Belmayne, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D13 AP6W				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Monica Campbell				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/11/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>31</td> <td>PM</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </table>	AM	31	PM	25
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Hosford and E Saini				
<b>Title:</b>	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 6pm 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:

Little Miss Sunshine (1-2 years), Mr Daydream (1-2 years), Little Miss Giggles (2-3 years), Mr Messy (2-3 years) Mr Tall (4-5 Years), Little Miss Tidy (4-5 years), Mr Happy (4-5 years) and Little Miss Wise (4-5 years).

Five care rooms were in operation during the inspection, they were Little Miss Sunshine, Mr Daydream, Little Miss Giggles, Mr Messy and Mr Tall.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs 16 staff to include, two deputy staff in charge, an administration assistant, a cook and 12 staff that work directly with the children. On the day of inspection 14 staff were present, 10 of whom worked directly with the children in the 5 care rooms.

### 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 announced initial inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) (6A,)
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2) and,
- Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and development of Child (1)(a).

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, 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

(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 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) The files of 17 staff employed in the service were reviewed.

(a)

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

(b)

- Two written references were available for the registered provider along with 10 validated written references from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 17 staff members employed in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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

(4) On review of documentation available 16 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 10 adults working with 31 children in the morning and 5 adults working with 25 children in the afternoon.

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

- **Little Miss Sunshine-** 3 adults were caring for 5 children aged 1-1.5 years in the morning and 1 adult caring for 5 children in the afternoon.
- **Mr Daydream-** 2 adults were caring for 5 children aged 1-2 years in the morning and 1 adult caring for 5 children in the afternoon.
- **Little Miss Giggles-** 2 adults were caring for 6 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and 1 adult caring for 5 children in the afternoon.
- **Mr Messy--**2 adults were caring for 9 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and 10 children in the afternoon.
- **Mr Tall-** 1 adult was caring for 6 children aged 3-4 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday. The room was closed in the afternoon.

(8)(a) Documentation available demonstrated 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 tuna pasta and garlic bread, an afternoon tea of chicken and potato wedges at 2.30pm and a snack of fruit and yogurts 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 and milk at mealtimes.

- Practices such as mealtimes, nappy changing and toileting were observed to be timely and pleasant experiences for the children. The mealtime experience was observed to be led by the age and developmental stage of the children. Children were encouraged to self-feed during mealtime, and they were provided with appropriate equipment to facilitate this.
- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and patient manner while adopting a flexible approach to the daily routine to enable the children to settle in the service.

### Supporting Relationships:

- 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.
- Staff in the care rooms worked well together in providing care and support to the children.
- 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.

### 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 decided 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.