

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DS004
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Name of service:	Rainbow Cottage Childcare
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Address of service:	34 Knockcullen Lawn Knockcullen Knocklyon Dublin 16 D16 E438
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Name Of registered provider:	Wendy Burns
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Type of service registered:	Sessional	☐	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐
	Full Day Care	☐	Childminding	☒	Temporary	☐

Date(s) of Inspection:	10/10/2022
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Number of pre-school children present:	AM	4	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15
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Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson
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	Rainbow Cottage Childcare is a childminding service located in a residential area in Dublin 16 and can accommodate up to five children at any one time. This single-handed child-minding service is delivered during term-time from the hours of 8.00am to 4.30pm. This service is confined to the ground floor of a two-story domestic dwelling where the children are cared for in a playroom and have access to the dining area. There is sanitary accommodation located directly off the hallway. The outdoor play area is situated to the rear of the premises and is accessible from the care room.
Staffing	The service is delivered by one adult who holds a childcare qualification at the minimum Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. There are two emergency contacts who are available, one of whom is a family member and is available at all times.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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 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. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. 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.
Additional Information	An Immediate action Notice was issued to the registered provider on the 10th October 2022 in relation to Regulation 25 no evidence was provided that a person qualified to the First Aid Responder standard was available at all times. A response to this notice was received to the inspectorate on the 10th October 2022.
Acknowledgments	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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.
- (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

The childminders file showed evidence of:

(2)

(a) One written and validated reference from a recent past employer was available.

(b) One written and validated references from a source other than a previous employer was available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the registered provider and for the two emergency contact people.

(d) Not applicable as the registered provider had not lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

(4) The registered provider held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

Compliance information

(8)(b) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service was within close distance and was in a position to provide assistance if required. The registered provider also has an arrangement made with a third adult, who was available to provide emergency assistance.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.

(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.

Compliance information

(1)

(a) On the day of inspection, there were four children in attendance between the ages of 1 year and 9 months to 2 years and 9 months of age. Records indicated there were no more than five children in attendance at any one time.

(b) Not applicable as no child in attendance was under the age of 15 months old.

(c) A charged mobile phone was on the premises

(2) Not Applicable as there were no siblings in attendance that were under the age of 15 months old.

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:

- There was a low table and chairs available to the children where they sat for their meals and the childminder discussed how she joins them at mealtime and share a meal as a sociable occasion.
- Nappy changing is completed as required and the children were observed handwashing and supported in doing so by the childminder. A child with a dirty nose was immediately attended to and the child was respectfully asked for permission, 'oh your nose is dirty, will we clean your nose?'.
- Children's shoes and outdoor clothing was stored in a box by the front door and the childminder discussed how children were supported to dress for outdoor play or their walk to the local park.
- Children's need for sleep and rest was met through the provision of a comfortable rest area in a corner with cushions and a mat in the care room and a sofa was available as a space for the children to sit and read. A cot and mats with individual bedding were available in the dining area of the home to the children who required sleep. No children were observed to require sleep during the inspection visit.

Supporting Relationships around Children:

- Respectful, warm and positive interactions were observed between the childminder and children and the atmosphere was calm and relaxed. A child new to the service was held for the duration of the inspection, with continuous gentle tones and reassurance observed from the childminder to the child. The other children in the room were included in the conversations and tasks, and these interactions provided for a settling experience for the child.
- Relationships with parents were facilitated through conversations at drop-off and collection, and there were information leaflets such as the menu and the learning curriculum displayed in the room.
- The childminder discussed how she was a member of an organisation for childminders and used this as a source of information and support.

Programme of Activities:

- The children's learning and development was facilitated through a play-based curriculum, and equipment and play experiences available to the children included; a home corner, art and crafts materials, books, small world play, role play, stacking, sorting and jigsaws, construction materials, transporting toys. These materials and equipment provided for a range of play experiences including creative play, games with rules, language play, physical play and pretend play.
- The theme for the month was autumn and Halloween, and craft materials were available for art activities to extend this theme. A spider book was the book of the week which had sensory pages such as fur. The childminder was observed discussing the book and introducing words such as 'soft' and 'furry' which can extend children's vocabulary and supports emergent language.
- The outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises was fully enclosed and surfaced with decking and the childminder discussed how they had a four-seater buggy for use on a daily walk to the local park which was situated directly across from the childminding service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance information

The furniture and equipment available to the children was suitable to their age and stage of development:

- The furniture met the individual needs of the children. There was a low table and chairs available to them where they could sit for meals and activities, the toys and equipment was stored in large drawers that were easily accessible to the children, there was a rug on the floor to provide for a comfortable space for activities, and a sofa to sit on where the childminder could interact comfortably with the children.
- Other toys and equipment were stored in labelled baskets which the childminder made available to the children in rotation and under supervision according to their age and stage of development.
- Equipment available to the children included blackboard with chalks, a play kitchen with associated props, small world play accessories, a garage with cars, lacing, threading and puzzle toys, dress up materials books, paper and mark making equipment, arts and craft materials.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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.

Compliance information

There was adequate, suitable, varied and nutritious food and drink available to the children.

There was a two-week menu plan in place and on the day of the inspection the children had a snack of rice cakes and banana at 9.30am; a hot meal of beef, carrots, broccoli, potatoes and gravy at 12.30pm; and a ham sandwich in the afternoon. Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day.

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 service had a doorbell entry system, which was monitored by a camera and by the childminder to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents and hazardous equipment which were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- A record of accidents and incidents that occur in the setting was maintained.
- Available toys and equipment were clean and in a good state of repair and were stored in large drawers which had a soft closing mechanism which minimised finger trap incidents.
- The dog on the premises was not observed to have access to either the indoor and outdoor areas where children were cared for; this was in line with the pet policy that was in place.

Infection control:

- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and the childminder discussed the daily cleaning routine used to maintain this.
- Liquid soap, thermostatically controlled warm water and single use hand towels were available at the wash hand basin used by the children.
- The childminder was observed handwashing after cleaning a child's nose and disposing of the tissue.
- Bed linen used by the children was laundered on a daily basis after use.

Fire safety:

- A daily attendance book is maintained which details the time in and time out of the children allowing for accurate accounting of the children in an emergency.

Outings:

- In line with the service outings policy and following a discussion with the childminder; a phone, first aid kit and the attendance book is taken when the children go on an outing to the local park.

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) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.
Non compliance information	(1) There was no evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school. It was acknowledged that the childminder did have First Aid Responder training undertaken, however the document was not an up-to-date Certificate. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on the 10th October 2022 in respect of Regulation 25(1).
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective and preventive action</u> The registered provider has booked a place on the training course commencing 4th November 2022. An reminder alarm had been set up in the service diary 3 months prior to renewal date to ensure Regulation 25 is always complied with.
Summary comment	The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 has been adequately 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) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 6th September 2022.
- (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were serviced on the 30th August 2022 and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 30th August 2022.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each of the care rooms.