

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022LK006
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Name of Service:	Little Rainbows Childminding
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Address of Service:	Rochville House, Bresheen South, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V35YY91
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Name of Registered Provider:	Charmaine Parnaby
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	15/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	4
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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

This is a private childminding service located in a rural area which operates five days of the week from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs. Children have access to a playroom which has a large selection of toys and play equipment, the kitchen area, hallway and sanitary accommodation. Facilities for outdoor play are available on site.

Staffing

The registered childminder has childcare qualifications and a second staff member works in the service each day.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Childcare 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,12,15,19,25,26 and 28.

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.

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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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered childminder, second staff member 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*

(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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise.
- (b) At all times the designated person in charge or the named deputy person was on the premises.
- (2) The registered childminder ensured that both adults working in the service were suitable and competent by consideration of the following
- (a) References were available for both adults from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer.
- (b) References from sources other than past employers in the case of both adults were available.
- (c) Vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for both adults.
- (d) Both adults had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months therefore police vetting from the police authorities in that state was available for both adults.
- (4) Both staff working directly with the children had childcare 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) Two adults were present on the day of the inspection caring for 4 preschool children. The second adult works in the service every day and is familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge.

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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) There were 4 pre-school children present on the day of the inspection.

(b) There were no children under the age of 15 months.

(c) There was a working telephone on the premises.

(2) Not Applicable as there were no children under 15 months of age who were siblings.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*

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- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

A sample of three records for preschool children were sampled and they contained all of the information required

(1) (a) – (i).

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

Children brought their own snacks and fruit in line with the healthy eating policy. Dinner was provided by the service and dinner may also be provided by parents and refrigerated. Drinking water was available if a child needed a drink. A three-week menu plan was displayed on the entrance door to the service for parents information. The adults have their own meals at the same time as the children.

Children went to the toilet independently with assistance given to those who needed it. They were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Hygienic nappy changing facilities were available adjacent to the sanitary accommodation.

A rest area was available in the room where children could rest and relax as desired throughout the day.

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Children enjoyed freedom of movement within the room and house and there was a supply of play equipment available to support play. All of the children slept on sleep beds and individual bed linen was available for each child and sleeping children were observed to be checked at 10-minute intervals.

Children were observed painting and the adults read stories to them.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow. The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

This childminding service was operated from a domestic dwelling and had an outdoor play area at the rear of the facility. Adequate and varied play equipment suited to the age and stage of development of the children was available in the playroom and in the outdoor play area. The playroom was spacious and bright. Defined interest areas included a reading area, construction area, home corner, are easel with paints, puzzles, manipulative play area, tabletop area, and small world area.

Childrens work was displayed on a line across the room and laminated pictures of childrens parents were displayed at childrens eye level which helped when children transitioned into the service.

The outdoor play area was safely enclosed by a fence and gated. Other play equipment outside included a swing, slide, sand and water play areas, large and small tyres, playhouse, water funnel features, planting and a garden patch area. Children were observed to play outside on the day of the 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

(1) The registered childminder had up to date first aid responder training.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available and easily accessible on site in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place on 17/04/2024.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in September 2023 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance available for the number of children attending the service.