

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DL116

Name of Service: Rainbows Pre School

Address of Service: 4 Tirlaughan Brae
Carrigart
Co. Donegal
F92EH97

Email Address: rainbowspreschool@outlook.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Tanya Roberts Brown

Type of Service Registered: Part Time Care ☒

Date of Inspection: 2 4 1 1 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 8

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Tusla-Child and Family Agency,
Early Years Inspectorate,
Quality Assurance Directorate,
Clinical & Administration Building,
Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor),
Merlin Park,
Galway,

Inspection undertaken by: Mr S. Meehan
Title: Early Years Inspector.

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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).



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
REF: EYIRIFDC02-2017: Version 12: Mar 2021
1.0

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Conditions If Applicable

Not applicable

Description of Service	This privately owned service first opened in 2000 and registered as a part-time care. The sessional care programme is also offered from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The service is located on the outskirts of Carrigart village, in a residential area in county Donegal. The service is registered to cater for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age and the opening hours are 9 am to 2 pm. The service has a playroom and sanitary facilities. Stackable beds / mats are available for older pre-school children aged over 2 years, for rest or sleep. In the playroom, a quiet /rest area with a child size seating and soft matting are available for children to rest or take a break from any of the activities. To the front, back and sides of the premises, there is a secure outdoor play area for children's play.
Staffing	The registered provider is the named person in charge and there is a named designated deputy. A total of 2 adults works on the premises which includes the registered provider. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education. On the day of inspection, there were 2 adults on the premises who work directly with the children and hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (Inspectorate) is the independent statutory regulator of early year's 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. 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 areas of Governance, Health Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. 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.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the other adults and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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:

- (2)
There was 1 new adult who had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 17/12/2018.
- (a) & (b)
Two written validated references were on file in respect of the 1 adult and were from a past employer or a source other than the past employer.
- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau was available for review in respect of the 1 adult who had commenced since the last inspection.
- (d)
International police vetting was not required for the 1 adult who had not resided outside the jurisdiction for 6 months or more while over the age of 18 years.
- (4)
Documentary evidence was provided to indicate that the adult who was employed to work directly with the pre-school children in the service, had obtained 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) Records indicated that an adequate number of adults was working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. On the day of inspection, there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children. (2) On the morning of the inspection day, there were 8 pre-school children with 2 adults directly caring for these children. (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were on the premises at all times during the operating hours of the preschool.
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HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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*

Compliance Information:	19(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS: - The healthy eating policy was available for parents / guardians to view. - Children were observed enjoying snack and mealtime under the supervision of the adults. - Snack time was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasions for the children. - In the morning of inspection, children at snack time had sandwiches, fruit, crackers, cheese and water. - A tray of children's own bottles and beakers of water which were individually labelled were available at water stations in the playroom for the children to self-serve. - The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- No children wore a nappy on the day of inspection.
- Self-toileting by the children was both encouraged and supported by adults.
- The children had access to plenty of free space to move around and select which activities they chose to engage with both indoors and outdoors.
- Adults assisted children to find positive solutions to minor issues as they arose throughout the day.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- Consistency of adults working in the service and the operation of a key worker system provided opportunities for the children to form and sustain secure relationships with the adults who were caring for them in the setting. During observed interactions, the adults working with the children demonstrated that they knew the children well, recognising and valuing their individual interests, needs, development needs and learning interests.
- Adults interacted warmly with the children, listening carefully to their stories and questions, responding to them with interest and providing regular praise and encouragement throughout the day.
- The inspector observed the children's language development and communication skills were supported through the positive and on-going conversations.
- The adult demonstrated respect and warmth towards the children in their care using soft and gentle tones, positive language and engaging with the children at their level.
- Communication with parents was at drop off and collection whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines, by email, phone or via multimedia 'app'.
- Each child had the opportunity to move freely to play experiences available to them.
- The children were observed playing independently on their own, and in small and larger groups. The children engaged in a variety of activities including, learning about the Winter and road & fire safety the themes of the week. They were also observed in singing, circle time, reading books, artwork and outdoor play.
- The children enjoyed the fresh air and fun in the outdoor play area while using their gross and fine motor skills. The children had the opportunity to play outside throughout the day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Structured team meetings was held and recorded in the service.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The indoor playroom was bright and colourful and were decorated to reflect the children's developing sense of identity and belonging through the display of children's birthdays and family trees.
- The physical and material environment featured a range of developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and play materials suitable for the age range and number of children in attendance which supported children's learning and development overall.
- Visual displays and instructions were visible on the walls in the sanitary areas and used by the children to support personal care.
- Displayed on walls of the playrooms were children's artwork and visual displays. Literacy and numeracy aids and posters linked to curriculum themes for e.g. fire & road safety, numbers, colours and letters.
- The layout of the playroom was carefully arranged to encourage children to make choices and initiate self-directed play and activities. Resources were easily accessible, and the children demonstrated familiarity with navigating their environment to independently access the toys, equipment and materials they chose to play with. There was clear floor space to enable the children to move around unhindered and appropriate furnishings of low-level tables and chairs were available to facilitate mealtimes and table-top activities.
- The playroom had well defined areas of interest, play equipment and materials.
- The following defined areas were available to children: arts & crafts, messy play, library with soft seating, household area, construction area, a farm, puppets, shop, hairdressers, small world area and a table top activities area.
- Suitable sized tables and chairs were provided in the playroom for the pre-school children.
- A rest area was available in the preschool playroom - with wipe-able child size soft seating and matting for the children to rest or relax as they wished.
- The outdoor play area was to the rear, sides and back of the premises, where a variety of toys and equipment had been set up. The service outdoor area was secured by means of a fence and the surface area was grass, concrete and tarmac. There were mud kitchens, activity centres, play houses, planting

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

areas, fairy fort, balancing beams, stepping blocks, sheltered area and a selection of ride on toys.

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 main entrance door into the pre-school was secured with a buzzer access system to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- All toys and play equipment were safe and in good condition in each of the playrooms.
- The temperature in the playroom was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Fire doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- Parents and guardians had been advised of the service's updated drop off and collection policy. The inspector observed that public health measures including the wearing of face coverings, social distancing and frequent hand washing were adhered to.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all of children attending the playroom/pod.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43°C.
- Tissues were available within reach of the children and the children were prompted to wipe their noses by the adults.
- The premises were maintained in a clean condition and up to date cleaning schedules outlining the measures taken to clean the service were available. The inspector observed tables, worktops and high-contact surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray as required.
- There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice that included detailed cleaning schedules, hand hygiene, respiratory

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

	etiquette and practices for isolation of a child or adult in the event of either displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Adult staff were familiar with procedures to follow if a child or staff member became unwell in the service. • A designated isolation area was available if a staff member or child should develop Covid-19. • Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, aprons and gloves required for cleaning /care practices were available, and the inspectors were informed that adequate stocks of PPE were accessible to the adults for these purposes.
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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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Adults had current training in first aid with documentary evidence advising that a childcare module was included in the training. (2)(a) A first aid box was safely stored easily accessible and in a conspicuous position and included a relevant checklist. (b) The service demonstrated that the content of the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the pre-school 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

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

Compliance Information:	(1)(a) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last monthly fire drill was conducted on the 09/11/2021 (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that fire fighting equipment was checked annually. The records for the fire fighting equipment and the smoke and fire detection alarm system were dated the 10/06/2021. (4) The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be conducted in the event of a fire was available on file and was displayed in the lobby of the service.
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