

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK146
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Name of Service:	Rainbows End Montessori School
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Address of Service:	23 Russell Close, Russell Court, Ballykeefe, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 YHE4
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tara Logue
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	29/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	1	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne
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).

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Description of service

This sessional preschool service is located in a residential setting close to Limerick city. It provides a sessional service for children aged 2 – 6 years for 3 hours a day between the hours of 09.30 to 12.30 pm, Monday to Friday. The service is operated from a purpose-built facility located to the rear of a dwelling house. The children have access to one preschool room, sanitary accommodation and an outdoor play facility located to the front of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the preschool children each day.
There is a named person who will provide assistance and cover in the event of an emergency.

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.

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

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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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and child 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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

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(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 registered provider was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider was present, and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were always available on the premises.

(c) There was 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 the registered provider and the named deputy member of the team.

(2) There was one new staff employed since the last inspection dated the 18th of June 2024 and this file was reviewed.

(a) There were two written and validated references available for past employers.

(b) References from sources other than past employers were not required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were reviewed and available for the registered provider and the named relief staff member. The Garda vetting for the registered provider and the 1 staff member was dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(3) All vetting procedures were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned, or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) All the staff members working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent such qualification.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(3) On the day of the inspection there was 1 of the 5 preschool child present with the registered provider. The adult child ratio was correct. A second person, familiar with the service and with the children, was available in the event of an emergency.

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 healthy eating policy in place in the service and parents were advised to provide children with nutritious snacks each day for break time. All perishable foods were appropriately stored in a refrigerator each morning until required at break time. The staff sat with the child during break to give examples of positive social skills. The atmosphere was relaxed and the child was given plenty of time to eat and enjoy her drink and meal without being rushed.

The child was observed going to the bathroom on her own which was located adjacent to the preschool room and was encouraged by staff to wash and dry her hand. Children could be easily supervised while independently accessing the bathroom facilities. A wash hand basin was also accessible in the preschool room for handwashing. Tissues and wipes were always reachable to the children, and all waste was disposed of properly in lidded bins.

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A small couch was available, and this provided a quiet sensorial space for the children to rest and relax in if tired during the session. The child was supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for her age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service operated from 1 playroom. The room was divided into many play areas and low-level shelving units helped separate and identify each of the play stations. A low-level table and chairs were used for the tabletop activities and for dining at mealtimes. Open shelving units housed a diverse selection of play materials, allowing children to independently select and access equipment with ease. The library area provided a comfortable space for children to relax and read a book.

Educational posters were exhibited on the walls of the room with samples of children's artwork also displayed throughout the facility. Children spent long periods each day in the outdoor areas which was directly accessible from the playroom. The children could enjoyed freedom of movement within the playroom and in the outdoor play area. The outdoor area supported children's physical activity, fresh air and exploration.

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;*
- (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.*

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Compliance Information

(1) The records for the 5 preschool children's were reviewed and all contained the following details i.e. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) and (i).

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) Documentation was available to demonstrate that fire drills were practiced monthly. The last recorded date of practice of fire drill was the 22nd of May 2026.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the premises was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last maintained in September 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the playroom of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(b) The last maintenance date of servicing for the smoke alarm was the 27th of June 2024.

The smoke alarms were not serviced and this could potentially lead to a risk to both staff and children in the event of a fire emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action:

The smoke alarm system was serviced on the 7th of July 2026.

A reminder has been inputted in the diary for the annual servicing of the smoke alarm system and the fire fighting equipment.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the smoke alarm record was submitted to the Early Years inspectorate.

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Summary Comment

(1)(b) The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement of Regulation 26 Fire Safety point (1)(b).

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (a) The premises was a separate structure from the dwelling house, and it was located to the rear end of the house. It appeared to be a sound and stable structure and there were no visible defects.
- (b) The entrance and exit door was secure to prevent children from exiting and to prevent unauthorised access. A keypad system was in place.
- (c) Heating, ventilation and lighting were adequate in each area of the facility.
- (d) The playroom and each sanitary area was clean and well maintained.
- (e) Suitable sanitary facilities were available for both staff and children.

All waste was managed appropriately.

Hygienic hand washing and drying facilities were available.

Hygienic nappy changing facilities were available.