

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DY008				
Name of Service:	Little Rainbows (Main Street Belmayne)				
Address of Service:	Unit 1, Block 4, Walker Drive, Belmayne, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	D13 AP6W				
Name of Registered Provider:	Monica Campbell				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	10/06/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>95</td> <td>PM</td> <td>76</td> </tr> </table>	AM	95	PM	76
AM	95	PM	76		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin				
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and Á Dunne				
Title:	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).

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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 6.00pm 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:

- Junior and Senior Wobblers (1-2 years),
- Junior, Middle and Senior Toddlers (2-3 years),
- Junior, Middle and Senior Preschool (3-5 years).

Staffing

The registered provider employs 37 staff to include 2 deputy staff in charge, an administration assistant, a cook and 33 staff that work directly with the children. One staff member provides relief cover, and two staff are currently on statutory leave. The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service.

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

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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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and 23, as a result the inspectors spent time in the did not spend time in the Junior and Senior Wobblers and Toddlers

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.

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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) The files of 16 new staff members employed in the service since the last inspection were reviewed.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) Twenty-five validated written references were available from a past employer.
- (b) Seven validated written reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 38 staff members employed in the service and the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.
- (d) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that police vetting was available for 9 new employees who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adults.

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(4) Fifteen staff members had documentary evidence of 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, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

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 19 adults working with 94 children in the morning and 20 adults working with 76 children in the afternoon.

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

- **Junior Wobbler**- 3 adults were caring for 8 children aged 1-1.5 years in the morning and in the afternoon.
- **Senior Wobbler** 2 adults were caring for 7 children aged 1-2 years in the morning and 8 children in the afternoon.
- **Junior Toddler**- 3 adults were caring for 11 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and 2 staff caring for 12 children in the afternoon.
- **Middle Toddler**-2 adults were caring for 10 children aged 2-3 years in the morning, and 3 adults were caring for 9 children in the afternoon.
- **Senior Toddler**--2 adults were caring for 11 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and in the afternoon.
- **Junior Preschool**- 3 adults were caring for 14 children aged 3-4 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday and 11 children on a full day care basis in the afternoon.

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- **Middle Preschool-** 3 adults were caring for 18 children aged 3-5 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday and 1 adult caring for 6 on a full day care basis in the afternoon.
- **Senior Preschool-** 3 adults were caring for 16 children aged 4-5 years in the morning on a sessional basis from 9-12midday and 11 children on a full day care basis in the afternoon.

(8)(a) On review of documentation available and on discussion with staff it was confirmed 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-
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- Children were observed to have regular meals provided, with breakfast provided in the morning, a hot meal of beef casserole with vegetables and mashed potato for dinner at 11:30am, a tea at 2pm and a snack at 4pm. Additional food was available and provided to the children at mealtimes and if they were hungry during the day. Drinks of water were available in the care rooms throughout the day and were accessible to the children.
- Transitions were managed and supported and were observed to be a smooth and calm experience for the children. Staff gave the children clear and concise verbal directions with consideration for each child's individual personality and abilities.
- The children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely through their care room and independently access play experiences of their choice. The children appeared comfortable and confident in their environment and were familiar with the daily routine.

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Physical and Material Environment:

- The care rooms were observed to be bright and inviting areas with toys and equipment laid out on low level shelving, visible and accessible to the children, and were grouped in themed areas of interest such as home area, tabletop activities, construction, and library areas. Themed areas of interest facilitate children to have a more focused engagement in their play experiences.
- Toys and equipment including books were observed to be in good condition, and suitable for the age and stage of the children in the care rooms.
- Labelling and imagery were used to indicate where things go, which can facilitate comfort and familiarity

Supporting Relationships around Children:

- Each child's identity and belonging were reinforced within the service with the use of the children's pictures along with their extended family. This can provide familiarity and comfort to children.
- The staff in each care room updated parents on their child's meals, snacks, sleeping, nappy changes and activities undertaken through verbal conversation and a daily newsletter at drop off and collection.
- The children were familiar with the daily routine of the service with consistent and scheduled activities planned and undertaken by the staff.
- Staff were observed to interact with the children in a warm, engaging manner while encouraging them to interact with each other in a calm and friendly manner while emphasising turn taking and sharing.
- Staff worked well together in providing care to the children which enabled smooth transitions between activities such as mealtimes, sleep and getting ready for outdoor play. Staff were observed to interact with the children in a warm, engaging manner.
- Children's behaviour was managed using positive age-appropriate strategies such as intervening immediately when minor incidents arose, stating clear expected boundaries, and offering comfort when needed.

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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 service entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured with a lock and high-level release buttons to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service.
- Cleaning agents, blind cords, garden equipment and flexes were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children during the inspection.

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care rooms and sanitary facilities. Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided to support hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation in the service. Pedal bins were provided for the disposal of wastepaper in the sanitary facility.
- Soothers were labelled and stored in personalised containers when not in use.
- The premises, play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Individual storage bags were available for the storage of sheets used by the children during sleep time.
- Fourteen cots in use and observed to be in good condition, and all had washable wipeable covers allowing for easy cleaning.
- Nappy changing was completed as per service policy.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were aware of the administration of medication for a child who required a specific type of medication, and there was a documented care plan available.
- Medication was stored in a visible and accessible position in the care room out of reach of the children.

Safe Sleep:

- Children under the age of two years were facilitated to sleep in cots.
- Staff members completed 10-minute sleep checks to include each child's colour, breathing and position. The temperature of the cot rooms and care room while children slept was recorded as between 21.2 to 21.8°C which was within the recommended ambient temperature of 18-22 °C while children over the age

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of one year slept. Shoes and outer clothing such as shoes, tops and trousers were removed from children while they slept.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Children in the Junior Wobbler room did not have their hands washed before eating their lunch. This increased the potential risk of cross infection.
2. Eight cots at sleep time were observed to be positioned less than 50 cm apart to reduce the potential risk of cross infection while children sleep. The space between the cots was measured as between 24.6cm and 36.9cm.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that staff have reviewed the service infection control and hygiene, nappy training policy.
2. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that a cot layout plan has also been developed and displayed to ensure all staff are aware of the correct positioning of the cots. In addition, the Safe Sleep Policy has been reviewed by staff, and this will continue to be reinforced through regular supervision and team meetings to always ensure compliance with safe sleep practices.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic evidence submitted.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified. This regulation will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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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 registered provider ensured that five staff members were trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification and were available to the children throughout the day.

(2)

(a) and (b) First aid boxes were available in the service and suitably equipped and accessible to the adults responsible for caring for the children attending the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered providers ensured adequate insurance was in place for the full day care service for 132 children up until 27 March 2027.