

Quality of Care Part 1 Inspection Report

Sessional & Full Day Care

Name of Service:	Rainbow Corner Preschool and Playgroup
Address of Service:	2 Main Street
	Moira
Postcode:	BT67 0LE
Telephone No:	077455520446
E-mail address:	rainbowcorner@gmail.com
Name of Registered Person:	Owen Gawith
Name of Manager:	Alison Toole
Days open:	Monday – Friday
Opening hours:	7.30am – 6pm

Type of Service (please tick as appropriate)	Full Day Care	Play- group	Crèche	After School	Other (please advise)
		✓			
	Private	Not for Profit	Other		
	✓				

	Age Range	Number of Children Registered for	Number of Children Present	Number of Staff Present
Room 1	2 Years 10 Months - Compulsory School Age	24	22	3

Name of Inspector:	Lynsey Foster
Date of Inspection:	23/10/2025

The following Inspection was carried out by the Early Years Social Work Team.

Under the Children (NI) Order 1995 settings are required to be registered with their local Trust if they provide a service as a day nursery, crèche, playgroup, out of school club or holiday club.

The Trust is then required to inspect the setting at least once per year. The setting is required to adhere to the requirements of their registration certificate and to the Childminding and Day Care for Children under Age 12 - Minimum Standards. The Standards contain a number of Quality Areas. The Standards can be downloaded at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Service Improvement

The following are the definitions used when inspectors make a requirement for compliance or a recommendation for improvement

- Requirement for Compliance**

A requirement for compliance is a statement which sets out what the Registered Provider **must** do to improve the outcomes for people using the service. It will be linked to a non-compliance of a condition of registration and/or legislative requirements or regulations, and/or the Childminding and Day Care Minimum Standards for under 12 (July 2012) and Implementation Guidance.

- Recommendations for Improvement**

A recommendation for improvement is a statement which sets out the actions a registered provider should take to improve or develop the quality of the service. It will be linked to the Childminding and Day Care Minimum Standards for Children under 12 (July 2012) and accompanying Implementation Guidance; Regional or National guidance issued by other professional bodies associated with day care provision and/or Best Practice guidance.

Inspection Details

The Minimum Standards document contains four Quality Areas which all providers are expected to meet.

These are:

- Quality of Care;**
- Quality of Staffing, Management and Leadership;**
- Quality of the Physical Environment;**
- Quality of Monitoring and Evaluation.**

The Inspection process operates on a 4 year cycle. **Each year** the Health and Social Care Trust will inspect each registered setting on **1 of the 4 Quality Areas**. This means that all 4 areas will have been inspected in a 4 year period.

This was an announced Inspection assessing the Minimum Standard Quality Area of: **Quality of Care – Part 1**.

This section deals with some aspects of care that children receive in the settings. The **quality of care** is influenced by many factors, some of which, like room size and food and drink are easily measured and others, such as the ethos of care, development and play, which are less obvious.

Safeguarding has been placed at the start of this section as safety is at the centre of a quality service.

These Standards will help reassure parents that their children are receiving quality care in a safe environment.

Standard 1 Safeguarding and Child Protection is included in all Inspections.

This Inspection looked at a total of four Standards.

- **Safeguarding and Child Protection (Standard 1);**
- **Care Development and Play (Standard 2);**
- **Children's Health and Wellbeing (Standard 3);**
- **Health and Safety in the Setting (Standard 4).**

Self-Evaluation

As part of the Inspection process all registered day care providers are required to complete and submit a Self-Evaluation Form prior to the Inspection which provides information on how they operate their service. This is a component part of the overall inspection process.

The Self-Evaluation tells the Health and Social Care Trust how a Provider views the performance of their service. It also sets out how a Provider meets specific criteria within some of the Standards. Providers are encouraged to be open and honest, sharing all appropriate information as part of the Self-Evaluation process. Providers are asked to confirm the information they submit is complete and accurate.

By completing the Self-Evaluation, providers will reflect on practice and therefore engage in the inspection process.

Previous Inspection

Date of previous Inspection:	22/10/2024
Quality Area Inspected:	Quality of Physical Environment

Progress from Previous Inspection

Requirements for Compliance with Legislation and the Minimum Standards

- No requirements were made.

Recommendations for Improvement from Previous Inspection

- No recommendations were made.

Views from Children, Parents and Carers

An important part of the Inspection process is to obtain the views, where possible, of the children who are being cared for in the facility and also the opinions of the parents and carers who have chosen to use the facility for their child/children.

Children's Views

During the Inspection a range of children were spoken with.

The following comments were made by the children

"I'm painting the pumpkin green."

"My teacher helps me."

As part of the Inspection process the Early Years Social Work Team seeks to issue questionnaires for completion by parents/carers and staff.

Due to legislation relating to the protection of personal information and confidentiality, the Provider is asked to supply the names and contact details of parents with children attending the facility. Normally this consent will have been provided as part of the enrolment process; however where it has not we ask that the provider advise the parents of Inspection and seek written consent.

Parental Questionnaires	
(a)	A total of 15 questionnaires were sent out to parents.
(b)	A total of 10 questionnaires were returned by the time of writing this report.
(c)	10 parental responses indicate that they feel their children are well cared for in the setting.
(d)	10 parental responses indicate that they feel the setting is managed well.
(f)	<p>The following are some of the comments made by parents</p> <p><i>"I think very highly of Rainbow Corner, the staff are fantastic and are completely invested in providing the best education and learning experiences. This has been my experience with my child being in the pre pre and now starting in this nursery year. The staff are very approachable to communicate with, if as parents we needed to chat with them about our child. The outside learning space is fantastic compared to other settings in our area which impressed myself as a parent. We are made aware through parent information nights of the topics the children are learning and how it links to their overall development, this is very informative as parents. I whole heartily recommend Rainbow Corner to other parents I know as I just think it's a brilliant setting."</i></p> <p><i>"I am so happy with how my daughter has settled into Rainbow Corner. The staff have made the transition so easy for both her and us. They have created a fun, warm and homely environment for the children to explore and thrive in with no pressure. Each week my daughter comes home with stories of the songs she has sang or the games they have played. We are only in the first few weeks of Pre-School and she has already taken part in Pilates and forest school as well as a football tournament. I feel the staff are not only ensuring the children are happy and settled but also ensuring that us parents feel part of the Rainbow Corner community as well."</i></p> <p><i>"Excellent nursery provision, staff are engaging with the children and offer an excellence provision of care. Education authority should offer more financial provision to enable the service to develop further and funds for activities."</i></p> <p><i>"Overall I think Rainbow Corner is an amazing setting for children and I am over the moon at how well my daughter has settled in both the setting and with the three teachers. I had previously sent my daughter to Rainbow Corner play group and I knew I wanted to then send her to the pre school and it was our first choice."</i></p>

Staff Questionnaires	
(a)	A total of 3 questionnaires were sent to staff.

(b)	A total of 3 questionnaires were returned by the time of writing this report.
(c)	3 staff responses indicate that they feel equipped to carry out their role in the setting.
(e)	<p>The following are some of the comments made by staff</p> <p><i>"I have up to date safeguarding training, I work closely with my colleagues regarding the safety of the children in our care. I am aware of the procedure to follow if information needs written down or reported."</i></p> <p><i>"If I have any concerns I would feel comfortable talking them through with either the leader or deputy. I can also voice any concerns during my supervision. If I feel my concerns are not being listened to, I would go to a committee member for advice and support."</i></p> <p><i>"I feel prepared to undertake my role. I have the relevant qualifications and training to allow me to do my job to the best of my ability."</i></p>

Quality of Care

Standard 1 - Safeguarding and Child Protection

Children are safeguarded through systems and practices that are consistent with the Regional Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

Inspectors Comments

From the evidence provided through provision of records/documentation, discussion and observation on the day of Inspection, the Manager demonstrated that children are safeguarded through systems and practices that are consistent with the Regional Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

1a	<p>There is a written Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedure in place which clearly states it is the Setting's responsibility with regard to the reporting of suspected or actual child abuse or neglect and includes relevant contact names and telephone numbers. This was evident at time of Inspection and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust protocol for reporting concerns; • Reporting concerns without delay to the appropriate HSC Trust; • Maintaining a signed and dated record of anything which causes them concern; and • Keeping concerns confidential to those who need to know.
2a	The Self-Evaluation Form stated the Setting had received relevant training

	and demonstrated through discussion at Inspection an understanding of the responsibilities and duties in respect of Safeguarding and Child Protection and awareness that training must be updated every 3 years.
3a	All parents had been made aware at enrolment of the procedures for Safeguarding and Child Protection, including the need to pass information without parental consent if there is a reasonable concern that a child may be at risk of or is suffering abuse or neglect.
4a	Through discussion it was evident that parents are encouraged and facilitated to express any concerns they may have for their child's care and are given details regarding who to contact in the event that they are uneasy about the standard of protection afforded to their children.
5a	<p>The Self-Evaluation Form stated that there is a written policy and procedure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intimate/personal care and that parents are made aware at enrolment of the procedures for children's personal care. • The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment/Social Networking. Staff and volunteers have agreed and signed up to this policy at recruitment. • Code of Conduct in relation to mobile phones, particularly those with cameras or video capability and participation in social networking websites. Staff and volunteers have agreed and signed up to this policy at recruitment. • Taking photographs and that parents give written permission for their children to be photographed and the use of these photographs is clearly explained (e.g. displays, child records, promotional material). • The use of CCTV (if applicable). • Whistleblowing which encourages staff to report any concern they have regarding the practice of colleagues, volunteers or trainees, relating to the care of children.
6a	The Registered Person ensured that Contact Persons' names and telephone numbers are readily available to staff.
7a	The Inspector observed that the arrangements for safeguarding children were reviewed on an annual basis.
8a	Through discussion the Inspector was satisfied that staff demonstrated an understanding of child protection issues and safe caring practices.
9a	There is a system in place to ensure that children are collected from the setting by parents or those with parental responsibility or persons authorised by them to do so. Unless they are parents, persons authorised to collect children are aged 18 or over.

11a	The Self-Evaluation Form stated and also through discussion with the Leader it was evident that there is a Designated Child Protection Officer with
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	responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection who has attended relevant training which is updated every 3 years. She/he is available at all times during the hours of service provision for contact and consultation with staff and to offer instruction, advice and support. Through discussion, staff were aware of the arrangements of how to contact the Designated Child Protection Officer when necessary. This officer's details were available to parents and carers.
12a	Through discussion with the Manager the Inspector was satisfied that the Leader knew how to respond if a complaint or allegation was made against her or others in the setting.

Requirements for Compliance with Legislation and the Minimum Standards

- No Requirements

Recommendations for Improvement

No Recommendations.

Standard 2 - Care, Development and Play

Children's wellbeing is promoted and their care, development and play needs met. A broad range of play and other activities is provided to develop children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual abilities.

From the evidence provided through provision of records/documentation, discussion and observation on the day of Inspection, the Manager demonstrated that children's wellbeing is promoted and their care, developmental and play needs are met. A broad range of play and other activities is provided to develop children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual abilities.	
1a	The Inspector observed interactions between staff and children which reflected that each child is valued and respected.
2a	On the day of Inspection the environment was warm, welcoming, friendly and child-centred.
3a	The Inspector observed that children's confidence, independence and self-esteem was promoted through an environment and relationships where children felt secure and had opportunities to develop and make decisions and choices.
4a	Observations on the day of Inspection showed children having appropriate opportunities to be active indoors and out and to relax and rest.
5a	Through observations and discussion with the Leader and children it was evident that children's views were sought and their interests taken into account when activities were being planned.

6a	The Inspector observed that children were given the opportunity to play at their own pace and to have fun.
7a	Written observations of children were used to meet individual needs and inform/review planning of activities.
8a	During the Inspection staff listened and engaged with the children and responded to individual needs.
9a	Through discussion with the Leader and observation, speech, language and communication skills were promoted.
10a	It was observed that children were encouraged to share, help each other and respect others and to develop social behaviour appropriate to each child's stage of development. There are high but realistic expectations of what children can achieve.
11a	It was evident through discussion with the Manager/Leader that there is a positive engagement with parents to gain a good understanding of children's needs and home circumstances.
12a	On the day of Inspection there was a rich environment of natural, man-made and bought materials which ensured that the play and developmental needs of the children are met. <i>Children were observed gathered at a tuff tray, painting pumpkins and using paper to take prints from them.</i>
13a	On the day of Inspection resources and activities provided ensured that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's experiences were broad and balanced and provided them with opportunities which met their differing needs. • Children could build on their own natural curiosity, use their imagination, express their own ideas and develop their language and social skills. • Children can make progress over time, building on existing skills and introducing fresh ideas into their play.
14a	On the day of Inspection children's artwork was displayed.

Requirements for Compliance with Legislation and the Minimum Standards

- No Requirements.

Recommendations for Improvement

No Recommendations.

Standard 3 - Children's Health and Wellbeing

The overall health and wellbeing of the child is promoted and safeguarded.

<p>From the evidence provided through provision of records/documentation, discussion and observation on day of Inspection, the Manager demonstrated that the overall health and wellbeing of the child is promoted and safeguarded.</p>	
1a	On the day of the Inspection the premises and equipment were clean.
2a	The Inspector observed that good hygiene is practised and promoted in order to minimise the spread of infection and when a child is ill appropriate measures that comply with infection control guidelines are taken.
3a	The Inspector observed that children were encouraged to adopt good hygiene practices including washing hands before meals and snacks and daily teeth cleaning. Teeth cleaning commences in January and children will have their own toothbrushes.
4a	Self-Evaluation Form stated that there is a policy and procedure for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and this policy is informed by PHA standard on infection control and is discussed with parents. Management of Medicines. Dealing with Medical Emergencies/Managing Emergencies.
5a	The Self-Evaluation Form stated that the setting was registered with and complies with guidance produced by the Environmental Health Service in relation to food safety and its requirements for registration (as required).
6a	Through discussion with the Manager/Leader and sample documentation it was evident that any animals kept as pets have been risk assessed to consider the health and safety of the children and there are procedures in place to manage any such risks. Not applicable – risk assessment would be created for any individual activity involving contact with animals.
7a	Parents have given written permission for their children to have contact with animals.
8a	A sample of documents provided showed that medicines are administered to children only after discussion with parents and with written permission for each period of sickness.
9a	It was observed that all medicines were inaccessible to children and when necessary stored in a fridge.
10a	The Self-Evaluation Form stated there is a first aid box which is compliant with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations (NI) 1982 and the contents of which are checked frequently and replaced as necessary.
12a	Observation at the setting demonstrated that all buildings and grounds are designated as smoke free.
13a	It was evident that children are encouraged to be physically active and opportunities for daily physical activity are included within the setting.
14a	Through discussion with the Manager/Leader and sample documents it was evident that children are protected from over exposure to the sun and extremes of weather conditions throughout the year and their wellbeing is actively promoted when they play outside.

15a	The Self-Evaluation Form stated that parents have provided written permission for staff to apply sunscreen for children when necessary. Not applicable, it is the policy of the setting that parents apply children's sunscreen prior to the session.
15a	The Self-Evaluation Form stated that all equipment was protected from contamination and maintained in a clean condition. The Inspector observed that all equipment was clean on the day of Inspection.

Requirements for Compliance with Legislation and the Minimum Standards

- No Requirements.

Recommendations for Improvement

No Recommendations.

Standard 4 - Health and Safety in the Setting

Children's safety is promoted at all times ensuring that proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents and minimise risks to them.

From the evidence provided through provision of records/documentation, discussion and observation on the day of Inspection, the Manager demonstrated that children's safety is promoted at all times, ensuring that proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents and minimise risks to them.

1a	<p>The Self-Evaluation form stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is compliance with relevant health and safety regulations and guidance, Environmental Health regulations and guidance, and firearms legislation. • A comprehensive risk assessment is carried out at least annually and any health and safety action plans have been acted on. • The setting is registered with Environmental Health for Health and Safety requirements. • A written Fire Safety Risk Assessment has been completed under Fire
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	<p>Safety Regulations (NI) 2010 and that all recommendations have been implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff have an understanding of health and safety requirements for the environment in which they work, and that staff are trained to minimise hazards in the setting. • All staff received information, instruction and training on fire safety. • All soft furnishings and textiles are flame retardant comply with BS EN Standards. • All safety glass conforms to BS EN standards or purpose-made protective film is fitted to any doors, windows or furniture that are accessible to children. • Records are kept about vehicles, in which children are transported, that include insurance details and a list of named vetted drivers. • All windows, to which children have access, have restricted openings. • All ponds, pools, septic tanks or any water are made safe or inaccessible to children. • Staff must never be under the influence of any substance that would impair their judgement whilst in charge of children; this relates to alcohol or drugs (illegal or prescribed) and includes legal highs. • All cleaning materials are used in compliance with COSHH regulations. • Alcohol is not kept on the premises. • All gas and electrical appliances and their fittings conform to safety requirements and do not pose a risk to children. • A carbon monoxide detector is in place. • All blind cords are shortened and are inaccessible to children. • There is a policy and procedure for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety/Managing Emergencies - Transport - Security of the setting - Fire Risk Assessment.
2a	There was a system in place to ensure all visitors are identified and their access to children is controlled as necessary.
3a	Through discussion with staff and observation it was evident that due care and attention is paid to minimising fire risks and assuring fire safety.
4a	Sample documents showed parents have given written consent for children to travel in vehicles owned or used by the setting and records are kept about vehicles that include insurance details and a list of named vetted drivers. Not applicable – setting does not provide transport for children.
5a	Through discussion with staff and sample documents it was evident that a record of fire drills and checks of the servicing of relevant equipment is kept and that there are clearly defined arrangements for evacuation of the setting which are known to staff and children. Regular practices take place.
6a	Sample documents showed that all staff had received information, instruction and training on fire safety.
7a	Fire exits were clearly signed and easily opened from the inside. Fire exits and fire routes were not obstructed or blocked and fire doors were not wedged open.
8a	A fire blanket which conforms to BS EN standards is provided in the kitchen.

9a	Records sampled showed that fire blankets, extinguishers, alarms and smoke detectors which conform to BS EN standards are provided as necessary and checked and kept in working order.
10a	Through discussion with staff and sample documents provided staff had an understanding of health and safety requirements for the environment in which they work and were trained to minimise hazards in the setting.
11a	Through observation on the day of Inspection it was evident that hazards on the premises, both inside and out were minimised and daily checks are carried out before each session and appropriate action taken to minimise or cancel any risks.
13a	It was observed that hazardous substances were stored safely in a cupboard inaccessible to children.
14a	Floor coverings were sound and even and action was taken to reduce the risk of slipping. Children are kept away from boiling water.
15a	There is Employer's and Public Liability insurance in place.
17a	Through discussion with the Manager/Leader and staff it was evident that staff are not employed to clean when children are being cared for.

Requirements for Compliance with Legislation and the Minimum Standards

- No Requirements.

Recommendations for Improvement

No Recommendations.

Were there issues arising at Inspection that are required to be dealt with that were not part of the Quality Area inspected?	Yes	
	No	✓

Observations of the Care of Children

The setting is situated on the outskirts of Moira. There is a play area on site, accessible from the main room. The outside space has a large covered area, allowing all weather outside access.

The room is well resourced and has clearly defined areas for table top activity, construction, role play and relaxation.

The children were observed in small groups at various activities, including, playdough, painting and dinosaur area. Throughout the visit children were fully engaged and content in the setting. They responded very well to the staff team and routines in place.

Complaints/Concerns since Inspection

- No complaints/concerns have been expressed about this setting since the last annual Inspection.

Self-Evaluation

A completed Self-Evaluation document was received within timescale. This document was completed to a comprehensive standard/satisfactory standard/poor standard.

If content in Self-Evaluation Form is not consistent with evidence found on day of Inspection, discrepancies should be recorded in the body of report.

Inspection Summary:

Rainbow Corner Preschool and Playgroup has been registered since 1979 and is located in an urban setting. The facility is registered for a total of 24 and 16 places.

It is the responsibility of the Registered Person to ensure that the requirements to be met to comply with legislation, the Minimum Standards and Implementation Guidance as detailed in the report are actioned without delay.

On the day of Inspection there were 22 children present.

The staff team at Rainbow Corner are well established and experienced. They spoke positively about their roles and responsibilities, and demonstrated a commitment to work with children.

The setting is well resourced both inside and outside.

This was a positive inspection.

Requirements for compliance with legislation and the Minimum Standards

- No requirements to be met comply with the Minimum Standards were made.

Outcomes of this Inspection:

Requirements for Compliance with Legislation and the Minimum Standards:

No Requirements.

Recommendations for Improvement:

No Recommendations.

Name of Inspector:	Lynsey Foster
Signature:	
Date Report Completed:	23/10/2025

Social Work Manager:	Lynsey-Ann Kelly
Signature:	Lynsey-Ann Kelly
Date:	04/12/2025
Name of Registered Person/Leader:	
Signature:	
Date:	

CONTACT DETAILS

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Please note: If you are a provider of pre-school funded places, please ensure you send a copy of your report via email to the Preschool education programme at the email address: EAPSEP@eani.org.uk