

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC018		
Name of Service:	An Naíonra Charraig Uí Leighin Teo		
Address of Service:	Town Park, Church Road, Carrigaline, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P43 T283		
Name of Registered Provider:	Brid Kearney		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	23/10/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM 24
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V94 XT5F		
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien and D Cotter		
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).			
Conditions if applicable	N/A		

Description of service

An Naíonra Charraig Uí Leighin Teo operates as a sessional service which includes the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service operates between 8.30am to 11.30am and 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The service is carried out in a single storey building that was purpose-built as a childcare facility. The premise is situated in the town park of Carrigaline, Cork. There service consists of two care rooms, sanitary facilities, a large foyer and an office. The service has a well-developed outdoor play area located to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are 14 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who is not service based. On the day of the inspection, there were eight adults present, seven of which were working directly with the children. The deputy person in charge was office based and present throughout the inspection. A student was also on work placement 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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23 and 25; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, it was identified that the service was operating at different hours than registered. The service is registered to operate from 08:30-11:30; 08:45-11:45 and from 12:45-15:45; 13:00-16:00, however, the service is operating from 8.30am to 11.30am, and from 12:30-15:30pm. It is acknowledged that the service submitted a change of circumstance application on 24 October 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

The service submitted a change of circumstance application to the relevant department to change the times of operation.

Preventive Action

The service will be more aware of the time constraints in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of an approved change of circumstance application was submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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.

(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 service had a named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The deputy person in charge was on duty when the inspectors arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) There were clear management structures in place and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Fourteen recruitment files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider and the student.
- (a) Eighteen references were available from a past employer and were validated.
 - (b) Ten references were available from a reputable source and were validated.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 13 staff and the one student.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) A police vetting disclosure was available in respect of one staff member who had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Twelve of the staff working directly with the children held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from level 5 to level 8 or a qualification deemed equivalent by the minister. The registered provider and the student did not require a qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(d) On review of two staff members curriculum vitae, it was observed that police vetting disclosures for three states were required in respect of one staff member and one police vetting disclosure was required in respect of the second staff member. Police vetting disclosures are required when a staff member had lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

In relation to the first staff member, this member of staff has stepped down, and the service submitted a change of circumstance application to change the name of the registered provider of the service. A Garda vetting disclosure in respect of the new registered provider was submitted to the inspectorate on 27 November 2025. The Change of Circumstance application for the change in registered provider has also been approved.

One police vetting disclosure was submitted in respect of the second staff member.

Preventive Action

The service is more aware of the length of time that Garda vetting takes to process.

Supporting documentation submitted

A Garda vetting disclosure, an approved change of circumstance application and a police vetting disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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.*
- (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

- (1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of inspection, the following adult to child ratios were observed.

In the morning:

- In Semora Dearg, there were 20 children aged between 3 and 4 years being cared for by 3 staff.
- In Seomra Bui, there were 20 children aged between 3 and 4 years being cared for by 3 staff.

In the afternoon:

- In Semora Dearg, there were 15 children aged between 2 and 3 years being cared for by 2 staff.
- In Seomra Bui, there were 9 children aged between 3 and 4 years being cared for by 2 staff.

The service met the minimum adult to child ratios requirements during the inspection.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of twelve children's records were inspected and were observed to contain the relevant information outlined from (a) to (i). This supported the care and safety of the children in the service if this information was needed for care provision.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) There were no medication records available for review. On discussion with the staff, it was outlined that no child had required medication. The staff outlined the procedures to follow in the event of medication administration being required.
- (k) The inspectors reviewed 10 records of accidents and incidents which occurred between September 2025 and October 2025. These were found to be filled correctly complete with parental signatures.

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

1(a) On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through:

- Direct observation and discussion with staff
- Examination of relevant documentation.

Basic needs:

- Children had access to their water bottles at all times. Water bottles were stored on low level tables in each of the care rooms.
- There was a supply of tissues available to the children, at child height, with a mirror and staff supported children with cleaning their noses when required.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were attended to regularly and staff assisted children when they needed it.
- The rooms were well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff spoke at the child's level in a calm, soothing tone. Children were at ease with staff and were comfortable in expressing their feelings and emotions to the staff members. Staff were observant of children's needs and were seen to comfort children when they were upset.
- Each table in the care rooms had a different activity and a staff member sat at each table and engaged with the children in a meaningful way.
- The walls outside each room had photographs of each staff member to support a partnership with parents
- Staff were observed communicating with the parents and guardians on drop off and collection.

- During mealtimes, a relaxed social environment was evident. Staff allowed children to eat at their own pace and engaged in conversations with the children at snack time. Children were supported by staff with the opening of their snacks.

Physical environment:

- The outdoor area was observed to be secured with walls and iron fencing. There was a mixture of soft floor covering and artificial grass.
- The children were observed to have access to a wide variety of toys and equipment in the outdoor area. Examples of equipment observed on the day of inspection included a climbing frame, balls, mud kitchens, outdoor picnic area and a sheltered area for children to sit down.
- The children's care rooms were observed to be bright, well laid out rooms with clear interest areas.
- There were sufficient equipment and seating available.
- There were well developed rest areas available for the children.
- The atmosphere was observed to be relaxed in the care rooms at all times during the inspection and teamwork was evident between the staff and the children.
- The walls of the two care rooms were beautifully decorated with craftwork and paintings carried out by the children along with items of interest for the approaching Halloween season.

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 internal and external doors of the service were secured and prevented children from exiting the premises and unauthorised persons to access the service.
- The openable windows were fitted with a safety restrictor.
- Cleaning products were stored in cupboards and inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- It was noted that the children's hands were washed regularly throughout the day.

- The wash hand basins throughout the premises were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. The water temperature was recorded at 26.7°C in one bathroom and at 31.8°C in another bathroom during the inspection.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.
- A fridge was available for the storage of the children's perishable food in each room.
- Windows were open throughout the service to allow for natural ventilation.

Fire Safety:

- The service's fire exits were free from obstruction.

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 has ensured that there is a person trained in first aid at all times available to the children. Through the inspection of staff records, it was noted that there were three adults with First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2) (a)(b)

There was a fully equipped first aid box in each care room which was stored safely out of reach of children but easily accessible to staff.