

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC108		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Coiste Naíonra an Teaghlaigh Naofa Teo.		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tory Top Road, Ballyphehane, Cork, Co. Cork		
<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 K039		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Emer O Sullivan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	16/11/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	24	PM n/a
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Admin Building, St Marys Health Campus, Cork, T23x440		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Stokes		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A		

### Description of service

This Naíonra was established in 1996 as a community sessional service. The service is registered to operate a morning session from 8.45-11.45am and afternoon session from 12-3pm, Monday to Friday. The service is registered to cater for children from 2 to 6 year of age. The setting is co-located with the Gaelscoil in Ballyphehane, an urban /residential part of Cork city. It operates from two play rooms and has a designated, enclosed, and private outdoor area. The setting uses a play-based approach to teaching the Irish language.

### Staffing

The registered provider was service based. The setting is run by the registered provider and deputy person in charge and staff who all have major awards in Early childhood Care and Education.

### 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 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, deputy person in charge, staff and children 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.*

*(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 ensured there was a named person in charge (PIC) of operating the service.

(b) In addition, there was a named deputy person in charge (DPIC). The person in charge and DPIC were present on the day of inspection and stated that the PIC or DPIC are always on the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place on display on the noticeboard.

(2) The staff recruitment files were examined as part of this inspection.

(a) When the recruitment files of all 10 adults was reviewed two written and appropriately validated references were available in respect of 8 past employers

(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available in respect of 12 sources other than past employers.

(c) A completed record of Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was available for the 10 adults.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period exceeding 6 months.

(4) A certificate of a major award in Early Childhood care and education at a minimum QQI level 5, on the National Qualification framework was on file for the 10 adults.

### 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 registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3) The care rooms met the adult/child ratio of 1 to 11 as follows:

Room	Adults	Children
Seomra Dearg- Red room	3	15
Seomra Gorm- Blue Room	2	9
Total	5	24

### 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

- The morning snacks were served at 10.30am and 11.30am in the two rooms, and water was observed to be readily available. The snack comprised sandwiches, crackers, rice cakes, cheese, yoghurts, brioche, and fruit which was provided by the parents/guardians. Staff were observed to assist, sit, and interact with the children during snack-time to make it a social occasion.

- The children in the preschool room were independent using the toilet and staff supported these children appropriately, with gentle reminders for handwashing.
- A quiet corner in the preschool rooms were available for rest /quiet time.
- Children were observed to have access to the outdoor area for mobility on the day of inspection.
- There was a calm and engaging atmosphere in the rooms.
- Staff were observed to interact in a caring and enthusiastic way to support children settle in and learn the Irish language informally.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- The person in charge advised the inspector that the service operated in partnership with parents, with an open-door approach and communication in person with parents at handover times.
- A social media application for parents was used to send individual messages and also a social media platform is used to communicate general information with parents/guardians.
- Observations on the children with photographs were maintained 3-4 times per year, shared with parents.
- The setting had a key worker system for the maintaining the children's scrapbooks of these observations.
- The regular observations on the children contributed to the emergent curriculum based around the children's expressed interests. These interests link in with and informed the activities and themes of the month for example space, which arose out of asking children what they were interested in.
- Group scrapbooks were also used to record the learning and were linked to Aistear the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.
- The adults were observed to show positive regard for the children on the day of inspection, with encouragement and praise for specific tasks in a warm and caring manner for example, during tidy up/transition times where nurturing and enthusiastic interactions were observed.
- Team meetings were held monthly/bimonthly.
- The setting was integrated into the local community particularly the school community where the setting was co-located but also with the recent theme of community week.

### Physical and Material Environment

- The indoor environment was child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out in special interest areas with materials accessible to the children in both playrooms.
- Interest areas included a creative area with arts and crafts on a portable cart, library, quiet/soft area; sensory area; home corner; construction area, tabletop activities and loose parts; imaginative area with dress up, music area and nature table. A tuft tray was available for sensory play.

- Child sized tables and chairs were available, and children’s artwork was on display at children’s eye level.
- The outdoor area had interest areas and equipment including bikes, ride on toys, sand pit for digging, a playhouse, mud kitchen, loose parts, and chalkboard.
- There was a canopy area which was fully sheltered which accommodated outdoor play in all-weather daily.

### Programme of Activities

- The service offered a play-based curriculum and playful opportunities were supported throughout the early learning and care programme with an emphasis on learning Gaeilge through songs, books, and play.
- The service had a predictable and established daily routine for children, with opportunities for child led activities and large group games.
- For example, the daily routine commenced with free play. This was followed by outdoor play and snack time. During story time there was an emphasis on conversation and interaction for further language development. The session was completed with tabletop activities (playdough on the day of inspection) and a home circle time.
- The service had a daily plan which is reviewed by staff after the session. The medium-term plan was developed around mind maps and emphasised children’s choice and developing the children’ independence.
- Outdoor play was observed on the day of inspection, which was described as a key activity in the session by the registered provider and staff.

## 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:

- Internal and external doors were secured on the day of inspection.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage facilities were inaccessible to children in a locked cupboard.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.
- The outdoor area was observed to be free of safety concerns or hazards.

##### Infection Control:

- Handwashing with thermostatically controlled hot water, soap and paper towels for drying was observed on the day of inspection.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available in the children's toilets for paper towel disposal.
- Tables were cleaned before and after snack.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed at the time of inspection. However, the person in charge advised that one child has a nut allergy and their parents have provided an auto-injector pen and staff were trained in its use.
- A locked medicine cabinet was in a press, inaccessible to children.

##### Safe Sleep:

- This service is a sessional service, with a quiet area for rest rather than sleep facilities.

##### Fire Safety:

- No fire safety issues were observed on the day of inspection. Fire doors were not obstructed, and fire drills were conducted monthly for the safe evacuation of the service.

##### Outing:

- No outings were conducted. The service had an outings policy.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance for 52 children attending on a sessional basis valid until 31 August 2024

### 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

- (a) From visual inspection the premises, a prefabricated structure, appeared of sound and stable structure, well-finished and weather tight.
- (b) From visual inspection the premises appeared safe and secure. An appropriate security system with a secured entrance door to manage unauthorised entry and unsupervised exit of children from the service was in place.
- (c) The service was adequately heated, lit, and ventilated. The room was a comfortable temperature, windows were opened for ventilation and natural lighting was supplemented with artificial lighting.
- (d) The premises was suitably cleaned and maintained in a good state of repair.
- (e) An adequate ratio of toilets was in place for children as a 1 to 11 ratio was in place, with 2 toilets and sinks for children of seomra dearg and 1 toilet and 1 sink for children of seomra gorm. For adults there was 1 adult toilet, a 1 to 8 ratio was in place as required.