

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC216
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Name of Service:	Lios na nÓg
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Address of Service:	Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Tramore Road, Cork, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T12 AC91
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Name of Registered Provider:	Oonagh Cagney
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	22/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	28
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork. T23x440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter and J Russell
Title:	Early Years Inspector and Inspection and Registration Manager

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
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Description of service

Lios na nÓg is a community service situated on the grounds of a Cork ETB college. The service first notified in 1998 and operates from a purpose built one storey building. The service consists of four care rooms, a kitchen and associated sanitary accommodations. There is an office, a sleep room and a large outdoor area to the rear of the building. The outdoor area includes a covered area to ensure children have access to the outdoors regardless of weather. This full day care service operates daily from 08:30am to 17:00pm.

Staffing

There are nine staff attached to the service, six of whom work directly with the children. The registered provider is not serviced based but was available on the day. There is a cleaner, and a kitchen staff also included in staffing.

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/ 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 service had a designated person in charge, and a named deputy was available if required.
 - (b) The person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection, the registered provider arrived shortly thereafter and remained onsite for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and the staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Nine staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider, six staff who work directly with the children, the kitchen staff and cleaner.
- (a) Of the seventeen references available, twelve were from a previous employer, and were eleven of these were validated.
 - (b) Of the seventeen references available, five were from a reputable source, and five were validated.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all nine staff. 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 for two staff members who had lived outside of Ireland for longer than six consecutive months as adults.
- (4) Seven staff held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Education and Education from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- 2(a)(b) One written and validated reference was not on file for one staff member. A second reference, while available, was not validated.
- 2(d) A CV was not held on file for one staff member, so it could not be determined if they required a police vetting certificate.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The references and required validations were forwarded to the inspectors. The registered provider has ensured that all staff files are complete and will ensure that all files are on site in future. The received CV showed that a Police Clearance certificate was not required.

Supporting documentation submitted

A CV, reference and two validations were forwarded to the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 9 (2) has been adequately addressed.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection the following policies were inspected and found to meet the requirements of this regulation:

- Fire safety policy.
- Healthy eating policy.
- Infection control policy.

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) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.
- (2) On the day of inspection there was one staff working directly with eight children aged 3 to 4.5 years in the Swans room.

There were two adults working directly with ten children aged 1-2 years in the Ducks room.
There was one adult working directly with six children aged 3-4.9 years in the Eagles room.
There was one adult working directly with five children aged 2-2.11 years in the Chicks room.

The ratio was maintained for the entirety of the inspection.
- (8) (a) There were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and

Compliance Information

- On the day of inspection a sample of 10 children's registration forms were inspected. These forms were chosen at random across the four care rooms and all 10 contained the information required above from (a) to (i).
- (b) There were a total of 32 registration forms available for review by an authorised person on the day of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The food for the hot dinner was prepared and cooked by a reputable company and delivered to the service daily.
- A dedicated kitchen staff member was tasked with serving the food and preparing snacks throughout the day.
- The children's food was served in the dining area of the service. Children were brought in groups to the dining area at different times of the day. Meal times were spread evenly throughout the day to ensure children had access to food at regular intervals.
- During the inspection it was noted that all the food served to the children was appetising and healthy and that the service adhered to its Healthy Eating policy.
- The inspector observed that a copy of the menu was displayed in the main foyer for parents and guardians to consult. The menu was in line with the Healthy Eating policy.
- On the day of inspection, the children's morning snack consisted of platters of fruit with either milk or water to drink. The hot meal consisted of a Thai green vegetable curry with rice, and the evening snack was sandwiches with fruit and sliced ham.
- Staff reported that food was available to children outside of mealtimes if required. This was evidenced further by observing the reserve food in the cupboards.

•Children had access to either milk or water at all times. The inspector observed the cook placing jugs of milk and water into the middle of the table so that children had free access. Children’s water bottles were also freely accessible to them in their care rooms.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person

Compliance Information

1.
 - (a) The registered provider has kept a written log of monthly fire drills. Through inspection of records it was observed that fire drills take place monthly with the last recorded fire drill taking place in December 2025.
 - (b) the registered provider has kept a written log of all firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. It was observed that all firefighting equipment has been serviced and maintained. The fire alarm system was last tested in November 2025, and the fire extinguishers were last tested in October 2025.
2. The registered provider has ensured that all records relating to fire safety are stored safely and are open to inspection by authorised persons.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

- The service had adequate sanitary facilities to meet the needs of the children attending. There were seven children's toilets and two nappy change units available for the use of the 32 registered children.
- These toilets were partitioned and fitted with doors suited to privacy.
- Waste was managed appropriately in the service. All nappies were sealed in an airtight bag and disposed of in pedal bins. Pedal bins were in operation throughout the service. Waste is removed from the site daily.
- Low level hand wash sinks were observed in each care room. These were accompanied by liquid soap and paper towels.
- The two nappy changing units were suited to the age and stage of the children attending the service. Each was fitted with steps for the children to climb up and down themselves with assistance to aid independence.

Non-Compliance Information

The water in the sinks in the children's nappy change area was not thermostatically controlled to 43°C. When brought to the attention of the person in charge, it was temporarily rectified on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A plumber has been engaged to thermostatically control the water temperatures. A water temperature recording chart has been put in place to ensure that water temperatures are monitored daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence and a copy of the water temperature recording chart were submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 29(e) has been adequately addressed.