

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC216		
Name of Service:	Lios na nÓg		
Address of Service:	Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Tramore Road, Cork, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 AC91		
Name of Registered Provider:	Oonagh Cagney		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	27/06/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM 17
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
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	Not Applicable		

Description of service

Lios Na nÓg is a non-profit operated service that caters for children aged 0 to 6 years. It provides full day-care, part-time care, sessional care and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme and its daily opening hours are from 8.30am to 5pm. Lios Na nÓg is a service that is carried out in a purpose built one storey building that is located on the grounds of Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Cork. There are 4 care-rooms namely the Swan's room, the Eagle's room, the Duck's room and the Chick's room. There is a designated Sleep room adjacent to the Duck's room. The service has a large secured outdoor play area available that has an area provided with roof cover to facilitate daily use by children.

Staffing

There were 7 adults present on the premises on the day of inspection and 5 of the adults were working directly with the early years children. The sixth adult's responsibilities were solely cleaning and the seventh adult who was the registered provider was office based.

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 inspections 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, 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*

(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 was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises. The registered provided arrived at the service within 30 minutes of the inspector arriving to the premises and was on site for the remainder of the inspection.
- (2)
- The deputy confirmed that four adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 24 February 2021, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a)(b) There were 8 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 4 adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 4 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the 4 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.

(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 deputy ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 5 adults working directly with 20 early years children. There were 10 children each in the Swan room and the Chicks room. The Ducks and Eagle rooms were not in operation.

(8)(a) There were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that there would be 2 adults on the premises at 5pm.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee,*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Details regarding each adult's name, position, qualifications and experience accompanied by pictures of the adults were on display in the main foyer of the premises.
- (h) The adults maintained a separate written record in each of the 2 care rooms regarding the children's and adult's daily attendance.
- (i) A detailed electronic record regarding the daily staff roster that included their breaks was maintained and available for review by the inspector. The staff roster was in line with the adults that were present on the premises during the inspection.

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

(1)(a)

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The service was situated on the grounds of an adult education centre and had strong links and interactions with the training college.
- The service also had strong links with a sister service that was city based.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that the service liaised regularly with support bodies such as Cork City Childcare, Better Start and Early Childhood Ireland.
- There were key adults assigned to the children in each of the 2 care rooms and throughout the inspection, the adults were observed providing comfort and speaking positively to the early years children in their care.
- During the inspection, the inspector noted that the children were kind and helpful to their peers and assisted each other tidy up after play.
- Full-service staff meetings were carried out 4 times a year at the premises. Each room at the service carried out morning and weekly meetings to assess, plan and evaluate the activities and care that was provided to the early years children in their care.
- Service handbooks were available to all proposed parents and guardians to inform them of the services' facilities, policies and procedures.
- General Information was provided to parents and guardians electronically by the service throughout the year.
- Parents and guardians were informally spoken to daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by parents/guardians regarding their respective child.

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 kitchen area which had children's dining areas on either side of it was secured by a half gate in each of its 2 doorways to prevent access by an unsupervised child.
- The cords attached to the window blinds throughout the premises were all secured by wall brackets.
- The cleaning agents in each care room and toilet area were stored on high wall hooks out of children's reach.
- All leads and flexes attached to stereos were kept out of children's reach.
- The entrance door leading into the building was secured by a magnetic lock to prevent unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child. The button that one pressed to exit the building was fitted high on a wall out of children's reach.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high walls and secured gates.
- The wash hand basins throughout the premises were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water. The water temperature was recorded at 33.3°C during the inspection.

Infection Control:

- The children and adult's toilet areas were provided with liquid soap and paper dispensers.
- The 2 changing units beside the Ducks room were maintained in clean and good condition. The 2 units were provided with overhead storage that were stocked with disposable gloves and aprons. A child's supply of nappies and barrier creams were stored on an individually labelled shelf.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor on wall hooks or storage containers.
- The stackable beds used by children that needed a sleep were individually labelled. All linen was laundered on the premises weekly or more often if required.
- A box of paper tissues was available in each care room for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises to facilitate safe hygienic disposal of used paper towels.
- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates were available for review.

- A person whose sole responsibility was cleaning duties was on site cleaning and washing floors. The premises, play equipment and materials were all maintained in very clean condition. The remainder adults practiced a 'clean as you go policy' and supported the children to tidy up after themselves once they had finished with an activity.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- Crockery was used by the children during their snack and dinner meal breaks.
- The service provided all healthy food for the children's snacks and meals and the food was stored in a fridge positioned in the kitchen.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Visibility strips were not provided on all low glass panelled doors which posed as a potential injury hazard to any unsupervised lively child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Visibility strips have been applied to all low glass panels. The person in charge stated in the corrective action and preventive action (CAPA) response dated 12 July 2023 that she will ensure that they are checked and replaced as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographs of visibility strips on low glass panelled doors were submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1)
The adults checked in and out each child attending the service and maintained a daily record of these checks. Each of the 2 care rooms maintained its own record of attendance and both were maintained accurately at the time of arrival or leaving, and both reflected the correct number of children in the respective care room.

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 service provided evidence that 3 adults had training in first aid response (FAR) and that one of the adults was always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available on the premises. The first aid box was stored on top of a high unit in the office out of children's reach.
(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

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.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service up to April 2023 were available on file.
 - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment was last service during June 2022 and the wired smoke alarm was serviced during March 2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the corridor outside the office door, in each care room and a copy was also maintained on file.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There were no records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service during May and June to date. The last fire drill was carried out on 21 April 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (a) A fire drill was carried out at the service on 28 June 2023. The person in charge stated in the CAPA response dated 12 July 2023 that a reminder will be entered into the service diary regarding carrying out monthly fire drills, and she will ensure it is adhered to.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)
- (a) A photocopy of the record regarding the recent fire drill was submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was displayed on the services' main notice board and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of early years children covered which was 49, the start date, which was 01 January 2023, the end date, which was 31 December 2023, the category of service covered which was full day care and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding public liability cover.