

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC291
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Ghleann Maghair Teo
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Address of Service:	An Halla, Glanmire Football Club, Sallybrook, Glanmire, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T45 XE36
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Name of Registered Provider:	Eorann Hopkins
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	27/04/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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
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Description of service

Naíonra Ghleann Maghair Teo first notified in 2003. It is a community-based service that is registered to provide sessional care and education to children aged two to six years. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme, which is provided from 8.50am to 12.20pm, each Monday to Thursday.

The premises is situated in an urban area of Glanmire in Co. Cork and operates from the first floor of Glanmire Football Club. It comprises one care room, with adjacent children's sanitary facilities. A staff sanitary facility is provided on the ground floor and the children have the use of an enclosed outdoor play area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are five adults attached to the early years service, four of whom are involved in the direct care of the children who attend. The registered provider is not based at the service. The four adults who are employed to work directly with children each hold a major award 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 the 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 person in charge, 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
- (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.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (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) A designated person in charge had been appointed to the early years service. A named deputy had also been assigned and was available to deputise in her absence.
 - (b) The deputy person in charge was working at the setting when the inspector arrived and the person in charge arrived later in the morning, to facilitate the remainder of the inspection.
- (2) The deputy person in charge confirmed that one adult had commenced working at the service since the previous inspection was undertaken on 13 April 2021. Therefore, recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed, along with the qualifications of all four of the staff members.

- (a) Neither of the two required references had been obtained from past employers.
 - (b) There were two written and validated references in place from sources other than previous employers.
 - (c) Garda vetting from the National Vetting Bureau was available in respect of the adult.
 - (d) Not applicable. Police vetting was not required, as the staff member had not resided outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months, as an adult.
- (3) It was noted that the written references had been obtained and validated prior to the staff member commencing their role at the service, along with the required Garda vetting.
- (4) Evidence of attainment of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications, was available for all four of the adults. Copies of their final certificates were maintained on file.

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) At all times during the period of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working with the children who attended the service.
- (3) The adult to child ratios met the requirements of the regulation. During the morning ECCE session, there were three adults responsible for the direct care and education of 17 children, who were aged 3 to 5 years. The person in charge also attended the service to facilitate 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 total of 22 children were enrolled at the service. A sample of 11 children's registration forms were assessed and included the requirements listed from (a) through to (i).

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;

Compliance Information

(1)
(j) Written parental consent was on file in respect of the two children for whom medication had been prescribed. Medical care plans were also provided.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
(j) The written record of medication administration, which was completed on the day of inspection, did not contain the following required information:

- The name of the medication
- The route of administration
- The signature of a second adult as a witness to the medication administered

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)
(j) The additional information has been included on the medication record form; the name of the medication, the medication route and a second signature to witness the administration of the medication. The medication administration form will be completed when medicine is administered to a child.

Supporting documentation submitted

Completed medication administration records, which included the additional required information, were forwarded.

Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented by the person in charge has addressed the non-compliance identified under regulation 16.

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)

Basic needs:

- A mid-morning break and a fruit snack were accommodated during the three-and-a-half-hour sessional service. Jugs of water and cups were within easy reach throughout the morning, should the children be in need of additional fluids.
- The children were observed to independently access and utilise the sanitary facilities adjacent to the care room, as needed.
- Aprons were provided for water play activities.
- A cosy corner was available within the care room, for any child who may wish to opt out of scheduled activities or take some time to relax.
- A collaborative approach, which welcomed the children's input, was adopted by adults when supporting the children to resolve minor conflicts. For example, when an issue arose between two of the children in relation to play materials, the adult intervened calmly, listened to the children's perspectives and encouraged them to offer solutions, before checking in with both children to ensure that they were happy with the solution offered.
- The children were observed to move freely throughout the indoor environment as they engaged in their chosen activities. Further opportunities for more active play and movement were facilitated in the outdoor play area.

Physical and material environment:

- Within the care room environment, play resources were displayed on low-set open shelving or were freely accessible at the children's eye level, which supported child-directed exploration and discovery.
- The variety of materials and activities on offer promoted a broad range of learning experiences. For example, children were observed to participate in:

- Colouring and gluing, which encouraged fine motor development and creativity
- Sensory play with playdough and water
- Imaginary play in the home corner, using play food, utensils, dress up clothes, dolls and accessories.
- In addition, language development was supported through the availability of books and further opportunities to enhance fine motor skills, construction play and imaginary play were provided through a range of connectable shapes, plastic bricks, jigsaws, hand held vehicles, animal figures and barn houses.
- Child sized tables and chairs accommodated the children to carry out table top activities in a comfortable and effective manner.
- The outdoor environment allowed the children to engage in more active play, which promoted gross motor development; available equipment included ride on toys, a free-standing slide, wheelbarrows and a seesaw. Sensory experiences were also supported, through sand play and planting and fence mounted blackboards encouraged mark making activities.

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 service promoted healthy eating and nutrition education. This was evidenced in practice during circle time, when the children and adults explored and discussed various spices and later in the morning, a fruit platter was shared to mark birthday celebrations.
- Nutritious snacks were provided by parents and guardians for the children’s mid-morning break. Examples included sandwiches, filled wraps, crackers, rice cakes, cooked vegetables, yogurt and fruit such as blueberries, bananas, oranges and apples, with water to drink.
- Drinking water was consistently available to the children; jugs of water and cups were readily accessible on a low-level shelf in the care room.
- The person in charge confirmed that healthy snack ideas and nutrition guidance were shared with parents throughout the year via a messaging application, in accordance with the Healthy Eating policy.
- The inspector was informed that one of the children had been diagnosed with a food allergy. Measures were in place to reduce the likelihood that the child would come into contact with said food and information regarding the allergy was included within both the Healthy eating policy and the child’s medical care plan.

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:

- Entry to the service was controlled through an intercom system, with a keypad in place for staff members' use. This minimised the risk of unauthorised access. The door release button required to exit from the interior was positioned at a high-level, which reduced the risk of a child leaving the service, while unsupervised.
- In the outdoor play area, high-level fencing was in place to create a secure enclosure. The entrance gate was key pad operated, with the gate release button on the interior located at adult height.
- Staff members ensured that the door to the kitchen was secured when not in use.
- The available firefighting equipment was suitably tethered.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes within the children's reach.
- Cleaning agents, prescribed medication and first aid supplies were all stored in locations that were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- The practice of hygienic handwashing was supported through the availability of warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels at the children's wash hand basins. Adequate handwashing facilities were also ensured in the staff sanitary facility, with an electric hand dryer in place.
- Hand sanitiser was provided at various locations throughout the service.
- Staff members were observed to sanitise the tables before the mid-morning snack and placemats were provided for the children's use.
- The children's perishable snacks were stored in a refrigerator until the mid-morning snack was accommodated. This ensured that such foods were maintained within the safe range of 0°C to 5°C, as required.
- The care room was naturally ventilated through open windows.
- Foot pedal operated bins were in use throughout the service.

Administration of Medication:

- One of the children was in receipt of medication at the time of inspection and a second child had been prescribed medication, which they may require while in attendance.
- Medications were safely stored and in date.

Safe Sleep:

- None of the children were noted to sleep during the period of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- No fire safety concerns were noted.

Outings:

- Not applicable. The deputy person in charge advised the inspector that outings were not undertaken.

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) Available certificates demonstrated that two of the adults had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training, with expiration dates noted as 24 May 2023 and 16 June 2024. The inspector was also advised that a third staff member had recently completed FAR training, with certification awaited.

(2)

(a) An adequately stocked first aid box was stored in a location that was readily accessible by adults and out of reach of the children.

(b) The first aid box was available throughout the hours of operation.

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 firefighting 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) The monthly fire drills undertaken at the service were documented. The last recorded fire drill was noted to have taken place on 24 April 2023.
 - (b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was made available. Documentation demonstrated that the wired smoke alarm and the firefighting equipment were serviced by a fire safety company on 10 November 2022.
- (4) A notice, which outlined the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, was displayed on the wall, beside the entrance to the care room.