

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC299
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Name of Service:	Naiscoil Chloch Na gCoillte
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Address of Service:	Bothar Fernhill, Cloch na gCoillte, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P85 YV90
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fidelma Ni hUallachain
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	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 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	N/A
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Description of service

Naiscoil Chloch Na gCoillte operates as a sessional service and is situated on the outskirts of Clonakilty town. The service operates from an independent premises that is located on the grounds of the local Gael Scoil. The premises consists of a lobby area, a care room, a storeroom and toilet facilities. The service has a designated outdoor play area positioned to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are 3 adults attached to the service including the registered provider. On the morning of the inspection, there were 2 adults, including the registered provider, on the premises and both were working directly with the children.

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, 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 registered provider who was the named person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 2 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 3 adults that were attached to the service
- (b) There were 4 reference and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of the 3 adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 3 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 2 of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the 3 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 there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(3) On the morning of the inspection there were 2 adults working with 12 children present. The ratio of staff to children exceeded the requirement of 1:11.

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 main entrance door leading into the premises was kept secured to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by fencing and walls to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- The low-level glass panels throughout the premises were fitted with visibility strips.
- The radiators in the care room were provided with protective covers.

Infection Control:

- All equipment and play materials were kept in clean and good condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- The children's tables were cleaned thoroughly before and after the mid-morning snack break. It was also noted that tablecloths were provided on the tables for the snack break.
- Plates were provided to each child prior to them eating their food.
- The wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 22.1°C during the inspection.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored on individually labelled wall hooks positioned in the lobby area.
- A box of paper tissues was available for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene. Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.
- Each child in attendance had been provided with an individual headscarf at the start of term which he/she wore daily to reduce the risk of obtaining head lice.
- A fridge was available in the care room for the storage of the children's perishable food.

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 2 adults had training in first aid response (FAR) and that 1 of these adults was always on the premises.

(2)

(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available at the premises and it was stored on a high shelf 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 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) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last fire drills carried out for the morning and afternoon sessions were on 07 September 2023 and 11 September 2023 respectively.
 - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment and wired smoke alarm each had a maintenance service during August 2023.
- (4)
- Copies of the fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the care room.

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 available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered daily which was 22. The start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024, the category of service covered which sessional service and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.