

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC471
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naionra Naomh Sheosamh
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ionad an Phobail (St. Joseph's Community Centre), Sean Bhothar Eochaille, Ghort Alainn, Co Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T23 HK80
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Grace Boyle
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	8
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N O'Donoghue
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Naionra Naomh Sheosamh is a registered early years service operating in Mayfield, Cork. This service is registered to cater for children from 2 - 6 years and at time of inspection was catering for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 08.45am to 11.45am and from 12.15pm to 3.15pm each day Monday to Friday.

Naionra Naomh Sheosamh operates from one room located in St Joseph's Community Centre, Mayfield, Cork. The room has been adapted for the purpose of an early years service. The service has a small designated outdoor play area located to the front of the community centre building and the children have access to the community centre hall located beside the playroom.

### Staffing

There was a total of three staff attached to the service and that includes the registered provider who is serviced 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

## Additional Information

The inspector referred the service to Services Operating Outside Registration Status (SOORS).

## 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 II - Registration and Register

### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

### Non-Compliance Information

It was identified on inspection, that the service was operating outside of their registration status. The service was registered to cater for 11 children, however on inspection, it was observed that 12 children were attending the morning session. The inspector reviewed the service's statement of purpose and function, which stated the service accommodates 11 children at any one time. However, the service was at variance from what was stated in the policy.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider applied for a change in circumstance promptly following the inspection.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Proof of the approved change in circumstance was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

All correspondence was examined. The non-compliance under Regulation 8 (1) has been rectified, and the requirement has been met.

### 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 deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection.
  - (b) A person in charge or named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.
  - (c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included person in charge, deputy person in charge and early years educators.

- (2) Three staff were attached to the service; all three staff files were open to inspection.
- (a) Of the six references required, five validated references were from past employers.
  - (b) Of the six references required, one validated reference was from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for three staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Police vetting was deemed to be required for one of the three adults working in the service and copies of the relevant documents were maintained on file for the adult.
- (4) The three staff working directly with the children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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 working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation.
- In the morning session, there was 2 staff working with 12 children aged between 3 years and 10 months and 4 years and 11 months, all attending sessional care. In the afternoon session, there was 2 staff working with 8 children aged between 2 years and 9 months and 3 years and 8 months, all attending sessional care.

## 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) Children’s enrolment forms were assessed for 10 of the children registered as attending the service. The records inspected had the detail required as listed from (a) to (i).

### 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:

- Children were observed to engage in free play activities with a choice of tabletop activities including puzzles, links and peg boards or imaginary play with dress up clothes.
- Staff were asking children what jobs they wanted to complete on the day and children voiced their own interests such as collecting all the dinosaurs, cleaning the tables and picking up toys from the floor.
- Children were encouraged in developing their independence skills for example; putting their own coats and shoes on and staff supported children when required.
- Children's handwashing was supported and supervised by staff. This was observed prior to meals, after playing outside and after toileting.
- Parents/guardians provided a mid-morning snack for children attending the service on a sessional basis. Snacks included rolls, wraps, fruit and yoghurts.
- Staff encouraged children to express their emotions freely and supported them in expressing their emotions in a safe manner.
- Children were encouraged to engage in a wide range of gross motor skills including jumping, running and bouncing.
- Fine motor skills were encouraged through puzzles, colouring and sorting activities.

##### Supporting relationships:

- The service engaged in a key-worker system, individual educational plans and care plans were observed in the Naionra room for children who required these.
- Staff spoke at the child's level in a calm, soothing tone. Children were at ease with staff and were comfortable in expressing their feelings and emotions to the staff members.
- Staff spoke through Irish to the children and encouraged children to feel confident in speaking Irish back to staff.

- The service worked in partnership with the parents and guardians of the children attending. Parents/Guardians were welcomed into the service to discuss concerns and remained updated with the children’s development during their sessions.

### 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 and external doors of the service were secured and prevented children from exiting the premises and unauthorised persons to access the service.
- Toys and equipment appeared in good condition and well maintained.
- Blind cords were securely out of reach of children.
- The openable windows were out of reach of children.
- Emergency exits were unobstructed.
- The television cables were out of reach of children.
- Cleaning materials were stored in cupboards and inaccessible to children.

##### Infection control:

- Windows were open which allowed for fresh air circulation.
- Perishable food was observed in the refrigerators.
- Water temperatures were recorded in the sanitary facility between 35.1°C to 35.4°C.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables and chairs between activities.
- Foot operated bins were available in each room and sanitary facility.

##### Fire safety:

- Fire procedures were available in the room; staff were aware of procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.
- Fire equipment was available which included fire extinguishers.

- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and clearly identified.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General safety:

1. The radiator cover in the main Naionra room was not anchored adequately. Children were observed playing near the radiator cover throughout the inspection. The radiator cover not being anchored securely poses a risk of injury to a child.

#### Infection control:

2. It was observed throughout the morning and afternoon sessions that there was no soap available in one of the children's sanitary facility sinks. Not having access to soap impeded effective hand washing and posed a risk of infection to the children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General safety:

The registered provider removed the radiator cover following the inspection.

#### Infection control:

The registered provider changed the soap dispensers and will continue to monitor soap levels daily, to ensure there is soap available at all times.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General safety:

Photographic evidence of the radiator cover removed was sent to the Early Years Inspectorate.

#### Infection control:

Photographic evidence of the new soap filled soap dispensers was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

All correspondence was examined. The non-compliances under Regulation 23 have been rectified, and the requirement has been met.

## 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) It was evident from the staff rota that there was at least one staff member trained in First Aid Responder available on the premises at all times.

(2)

(a) The first aid kit was stored up high, out of reach of children and clearly identified in each room.

(b) The first aid kit was inspected and was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service.

These were available for staff to attend to the children if required.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

### Compliance Information

It was evident throughout the day of inspection that children are supervised at all times, this was observed by staff engaging in supervision by sight and sound. Staff supported children when required. This was observed both indoors and outdoors.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certificate for the service was furnished to the inspector. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- The contact details for the insurance provider.
- The name and address of the service insured.
- The categories of insurance cover for the service.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27 March 2026.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

*(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the children planning to attend the additional preschool service.

(3) The Naionra room allows for the children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.