

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE104			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naionra Ceimeanna Beaga Teo			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil Mhichil Ciosog, Bothar an Ghoirt, Inis, Co. Clare			
<b>Eircode:</b>	V95 DW35			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Katie Ui Chaoimh			
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/06/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	40	PM	24
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á.McCarthy			
<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).

### Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

Naíonra Ceimeanna Beaga Teo was established in 2014, as a privately operated sessional service each morning and afternoon. The service is operated from two classrooms within Gaelscoil Mhíchil Ciosóg, on the outskirts of Ennis town. Care and education are facilitated through the use of Irish language for children ranging in age from two to five years. The service operates two sessions Monday to Friday, from 08:40 to 11:40, and 12:00 to 15:00. An outdoor play area is available to the rear and front of the premises.

### Staffing

Nine adults are employed in the service. On the 11 June 2024 the person in charge and five adults were present in the service. The registered provider was not present during the inspection.

### 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 and safety. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 (19)(1)(a) and 23. 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:

#### **11 June 2024**

An Immediate Action Notice was issued under Regulation 9(2)(c). A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one member of staff who was present in the service contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act. On the 11 June 2024 a response was received from the registered provider outlining the corrective actions taken.

#### **12 June 2024**

A copy of the required garda vetting disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate by the registered provider.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.*

*(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 and a named person to deputise was available throughout the inspection.

(b)

The designated person in charge was available during the inspection in the service.

(2)

Nine files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The findings included the following:

(a)

Twelve validated references from past employers were available.

(b)

Six validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of eight adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was not required, as the adults working in the service had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months.

(4)

The registered provider and staff held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## Non-Compliance Information

(2)(c)

A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for an adult who was present in the service contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act.

On the 11 June 2024 an Immediate Action Notice was issued under Regulation 9(2)(c) and the registered provider responded outlining the corrective actions taken to resolve the non-compliance.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(2)(c)

### Corrective and Preventive Action

On the 11 June 2024 a response was received from the registered provider outlining the corrective actions taken. On the 12 June 2024 a copy of the required garda vetting disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate by the registered provider.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A garda vetting disclosure.

## Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers response and evidence submitted to the inspectorate the area of non compliance is addressed. The regulatory requirement for Regulation 9(2)(c) is addressed.

## 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)  
An adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the service.
- (3)  
The adult to child ratio was maintained at all times. On the 11 June 2024 six adults cared for forty children in the morning and four adults cared for twenty-four children in the afternoon.

### 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)

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the indoor and outdoor environment through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment, having regard to the age and level of development of the children. Two rooms were in operation during the inspection.

#### Basic Needs of the Children:

The adults supported the children to be independent while they cared for their personal belongings, used the toilet, by including them in the facilitation of the programme of care and during mealtime. The children were treated with positive regard during all interactions. The children's cues for assistance were responded to promptly and they were supported by the adults as they played individually and as part of the group. During mealtime the adults and children sat and conversed amicably together. Mealtime was facilitated in an unhurried and relaxed manner.

The children accessed both the indoor and outdoor environment and engaged in play-based activities. On arrival the children attending Rang a Dó were engaged in gross motor activities in the outdoor area in preparation for their sports day. The children attending Rang a h-Aon created individual Fathers day cards and engaged in cutting, pasting and colouring activities. The care rooms were laid out with low-level tables and chairs suitable to the age of the children in attendance. Designated areas of interest were available to the children with appropriate supporting play materials and equipment. A shop and kitchen corner, a dolls house with furnishings, a reading area and units with a large variety of play and educational materials were available at a low level and accessible to the children. An area was available for children to rest or take a break from activities within the care-room. Numerical and alphabetical learning aids and the children's artwork were displayed on the walls, individual folders and learning journals. The two outdoor areas provided a space where the children could freely move and play.

## 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 entrances to the service was appropriately secured to monitor people’s entry to the service. The internal and external entry and exit points prevented children exiting or unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- The materials and equipment throughout the service were maintained in good condition.
- Storage areas were secured to prevent the children accessing the contents within.

##### Infection Control:

- The indoor and outdoor environments were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with running water, liquid soap and hand paper towels to promote good hand hygiene practices.
- Both the children and the adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, toileting and before mealtime.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The staff confirmed that medication is not routinely administered. A policy is available to inform practice.
- An individual care plan was available for a child with a defined medical condition. Staff confirmed attendance at adrenaline auto injector training.

##### Fire Safety:

- A record of completed monthly fire drills was available. The last fire drill took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.
- The fire exits and passageways were clear from obstruction and clear signage was available to identify the fire evacuation routes within the service.
- A fire assembly point was readily identifiable at the front of the school.

##### Outing:

- The person in charge confirmed that outings are undertaken once a year. A service policy is available to inform practice.