

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE105
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Dun Beag
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Killard Road, Doonbeg, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V15ED60
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Teresa Clancy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, County Clare
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra Dun Beag is a sessional service located in the coastal village of Doonbeg, County Clare. The service operates a morning session Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:30 for thirty-eight weeks each year. The purpose-built service is located close to the Doonbeg primary school. A play-based programme was facilitated through the use of the Irish and English language for children ranging in age from 2 to 5 years. The programme of care was facilitated in one care room and an enclosed outdoor play area is available to the side of the service.

### Staffing

On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 the manager and a member of staff cared for the children attending the sessional service. The registered provider does not work in the service and 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 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.

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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, 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 manager was the designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise as required.

(b)

A designated person in charge and a named person were available in the service at all times.

(2)

Two staff files were available in respect of the two members of staff. These files were reviewed by the Inspector and the following was noted:

(a)

Two validated references from past employers were available.

- (b)  
Two validated references from a source other than a past employer were available.
- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the two members of staff.
- (d)  
International police vetting was available in respect of one staff member who had lived outside Ireland as an adult for a period longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)  
The two staff members held a Level 5 and Level 6 Early Childhood Care and Education qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### 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 during the inspection. Two adults supervised nine children during the sessional programme.

(8)(c)  
Not applicable, as the service is not operated single-handedly.

### 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)  
The manager held enrolment forms for all the children enrolled in the service and the forms adequately detailed the particulars outlined in (1)(a)-(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,*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The inspector observed the children's learning, development, and well-being to be supported by the staff. The staff treated the children with positive regard. On arrival to the service the children were observed to be engaged in tabletop play based activities. The children transitioned from group discussion, songs and rhymes in Irish then to mealtime and free play in the outdoor area. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed, sociable occasion as the adults conversed amicably with the children.

The children's cues for assistance were responded to in a prompt and sensitive manner. The staff interacted with the children individually and as part of groups at their height and listened attentively during play-based activities and mealtime. The children accessed both the indoor and outdoor areas during the inspection. The activities were guided by the children's preferences. The staff supported the children to be independent while they used the toilet, cared for their personal belongings and by including them in the facilitation of the programme and during mealtime.

The indoor and outdoor environments were bright and spacious and laid out around the needs of the children with designated interest areas, low level tables, chairs and shelving with equipment and materials which were accessible to the children. A large quantity of developmentally appropriate toys, educational materials and equipment were available and accessible to the children in the care room. The open plan indoor care room was equipped with a wooden play kitchen, a rest and reading area, an area with a train track and a large quantity of trains, a creative area with colouring materials and paint, low level shelving units with containers that were labelled with photographs of the items within. The shelving units included: bricks and blocks, multicultural dolls, wooden puzzles, shape sorters, small and large animals. The children's individual artwork was displayed on the walls.

In the outdoor play area, the children had access to an all-weather surface and grass surfaced area. The children played with the members of staff and accessed a large range of equipment that included wooden and soft blocks for creative activities, tricycles, climbing frames, tractors and trucks.

### 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 the external entrances to the service were secured appropriately. The outdoor area was secured by a high-level fence and a locked gate.
- The materials and equipment within the building were maintained in good condition.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

- The indoor and outdoor environment and the equipment and materials within were maintained in a clean condition.
- Warm water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and pedal operated lined waste bins were available in the sanitary facilities and care room.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after using the toilet and prior to mealtime.
- Perishable contents from the children's lunch boxes were stored in the fridge.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication is not routinely administered in the service. Documentation detailing parental consent was available should medication be required.

##### Fire Safety:

- All emergency exits and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- Completed fire drill records were available in the service.
- Clear signage was available identifying the fire exits in the service.

##### Outing:

- The designated person in charge stated that the service does not undertake outings.

### 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 two members of staff maintained a record of completed First Aid Responder training.
- (2)  
(a)(b)  
A first aid box was available in the care room out of reach of the children. The first aid box was suitably equipped and identifiable for use in the event of an injury to a child.

### 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)  
Written records of completed fire drills that have taken place were available. The last fire drill took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

(b)  
Maintenance records of all the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available in the service. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system was serviced in May 2022.

(4)  
A fire action notice demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

## Part VI – Safety

### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance cover for twenty-two children attending the sessional service was available. The insurance cover is valid until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.