

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE105
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Dun Beag
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Address of Service:	Killard Road, Doonbeg, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V15ED60
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Name of Registered Provider:	Teresa Clancy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	Á. 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	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 adjacent to the Doonbeg primary school. A play-based programme of care and education was facilitated through the use of the Irish and English language for children ranging in age from two to five years. An enclosed outdoor play area is available to the side of the service.

Staffing

Two adults are employed by the service. On the 14 November 2025 the manager and a second adult cared for the children attending the service. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present during the inspection. The adults working directly with the children held appropriate Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications and demonstrated evidence of engagement in Continuing professional development.

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 regulations inspected included:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28- Insurance

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. 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, the member of 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 was available during the inspection.

(b)

A designated person in charge and a person available to deputise are available at all times.

(2)

Two of three files were available in respect of the registered provider and the adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

(a)

Three written and validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.

(b)

One written and validated reference was obtained from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect all of the adults employed by 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 available in respect of one adult working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held an Early Childhood Care and Education qualification at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)

Two written references with evidence of validation in respect of one adult were not available.

(d)

It could not be determined whether one adult required international police vetting, as an employment history record was not available and the adult was not present to confirm these details.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)

References from the adult's past employers were submitted to the inspectorate.

(d)

The employment history record indicated that police vetting is not required, the adult had not lived outside Ireland for a period longer than six months as an adult.

The staff file will be available in the service going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)

Copy of two references.

(d)

A copy of the employment history record received, police vetting not required.

Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers corrective and preventive actions and supporting documentation, the area of non-compliance is resolved.

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)

During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(3)

The minimum ratios of adults supervising children was maintained. On the 14 November 2025 two adults supervised four children during the sessional programme of care and education.

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)

Basic Needs of Children:

The children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the adults working in the service. The programme of care and education was facilitated in a spacious, open plan room and in the outdoor play area. The adults interacted with the children in a caring, kind and respectful manner. The adults listened attentively and conversed with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance and comfort. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions, and the children were offered praise and encouragement. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's personal interests and capabilities. The transitions in the changes of activities were facilitated with ease, as the adults notified the children in advance of any change in the programme of care and learning. The children played individually and as part of a group and chose their individual activities throughout the session. The adults engaged in open ended discussions, rhymes and singing exercises in Irish.

The children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their personal belongings, their play materials and equipment, during mealtime and whilst using the toilet. Areas were used by the children to rest and relax. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and level of development. The children and adults sat together and conversed amicably during mealtime. Mealtime was observed to be relaxed and sociable occasions.

Physical and Material Environment:

The children engaged in open ended play and educational activities in the indoor and outdoor environments. The open plan, care room was bright and spacious and was adequately resourced for the age range and stage of development of the children. The children engaged in individual and group games and sat with the children as they

engaged in constructive, manipulative, sensory and pretend play. Designated areas of interest with appropriate and accessible supporting materials and equipment were available to the children

The outdoor play area was located to the side of the building and was accessible from the care room. The children engaged in gross motor exercises during their time outside. A large range of play equipment and materials were available and rotated from a shed in the outdoor area. Available equipment included: bicycles, footballs, hops, skipping ropes, blocks, a climbing frame, a sea saw and a sand/water box.

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 entrance to the service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play area was secured with high level fencing to protect the children within.
- The children’s arrival and departure times were recorded in a record book, and the children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lined, lidded pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at regular intervals during the day after outdoor play, using the toilet and before mealtime.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given during the inspection.
- Documentation was available for the adults should medication be required to be administered.

Fire Safety:

- The two adults working in the service had engaged in Fire safety training.
- The service demonstrated evidence of monthly fire drills.

- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- The adults and children readily identified the fire assembly point.

Outing:

- The person in charge confirmed that outings are currently 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)

Two adults working directly with the children held records of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

(b)

The first aid box was available in the service for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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)

A record for completed monthly fire drills was available. The most recent fire drill took place on the 04 November 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system maintenance service took place on the 12 May 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the entry/exit points in the building.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty-two children attending the service. The policy is valid until 31 August 2026.