

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE106		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Na Leanaí		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	2 Willowgrove, Westbury, Corbally, Co. Clare		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 N15W		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Catherine Clancy		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/01/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	16	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care 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 na Leanaí was established in 2010, as a sessional preschool in a residential estate in Westbury, County Clare. The service accommodates children ranging in age between two and six years, Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00. The care and learning are provided in an open plan room, in a separate building adjacent to the owner's home. An area for the children to engage in outdoor activities is located beside the preschool room. The outdoor area is divided into different sections and part covered to allow for all weather use.

## Staffing

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 the registered provider and two members of staff cared for the children in attendance. The staff working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education Qualifications at Level 6 and Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The recruitment files held records of the staff members 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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19(1)(a), 23, 25, 26 and 28. 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.

### 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 registered provider was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The registered provider was available throughout the inspection.

(2)

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

(a)

Two validated references from past employers were available.

(b)

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

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the three adults employed by the service.

(d)

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

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at level 6 and level 8 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)  
On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the service.
- (3)  
The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratio was maintained at all times. Three adults worked directly with sixteen children during the inspection.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)  
The service-maintained records for the seventeen children enrolled in the service. The records included the required particulars outlined from (a) to (i).
- (3)(a)(b)(c)  
The children's registration forms were open to inspection in the service.
- (4)  
The registered provider confirmed that the records referred to in paragraph (1) are retained for a period of two years after the children cease to attend the service.

### 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)

#### **Basic Needs of the Children:**

The inspector observed the children's learning, development, and well-being to be supported by the members of staff. The staff demonstrated respect and warmth towards the children in their care, by using positive language and engaging with the children at their level. During observed interactions, staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's individual needs and learning interests. Staff interacted in a kind manner with the children, responded to their individual needs promptly and provided regular praise and encouragement throughout the session.

The children were supported to be independent, according to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, caring for their belongings and retrieving their lunches. Children's language development and communication skills were supported through the Irish language, on-going conversations, repeating rhymes and songs. The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their meal in the outdoor area in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Lunchtime was observed to be a sociable occasion for the children who sat and conversed amicably with their peers.

#### **Physical and Material Environment:**

The indoor and outdoor environment featured a range of developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and play materials suitable for the age range and number of children in attendance. The wall space was used to display children's artwork, literacy and numeracy aids. The care room was laid out with a pretend shop and kitchen with an area supporting equipment and materials, a dolls play area, an area with soft furnishings and a large range of reading materials. The area was used by the children to rest and relax throughout the session.

The layout of the preschool room was carefully considered to encourage children to make choices and initiate self-directed play and activities. Resources were easily accessible, and the children demonstrated familiarity with navigating their environment to independently access the toys, equipment and materials they chose to play with. The room was laid out with low level tables and chairs to facilitate mealtimes and tabletop activities. The outdoor area was accessible directly from the preschool room to the rear of the service. The surrounding perimeter was enclosed by fencing and a gate. The play area offered a suitably resourced space for the children to freely move and engage in physical, pretend play and learning.

## 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 appropriately to ensure children were protected within and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The outdoor area was appropriately secured by a fence and gate to prevent children leaving the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of the children.
- The emergency exits and passageways were clear from obstruction.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition and surfaces were cleaned after use appropriately.
- The children and staff washed their hands at appropriate intervals which included after using the toilet, after play activities and before mealtime.
- Child friendly posters were displayed to prompt children to wash their hands at the hand wash basins. Warm running water, liquid soap and lidded pedal operated bins were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Perishable food items were stored in a refrigerator in the service.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection. A policy and documentation were available in the event that medication be required.

##### Outing:

- The registered provider confirmed that outings are undertaken by the service. An outings policy was available to inform practice.

### 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)  
A members of staff held a record of up to date First Aid Response training and two staff had up to date paediatric first aid training.

(2)(a)  
A suitably equipped and accessible first aid box was stored in one care room.

(b)  
A first aid box was readily available 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)  
Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were undertaken in the service. The last fire drill took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

(b)  
A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance for the service’s firefighting equipment. The service of the fire-fighting equipment took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

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

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)  
A record was not available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance for the smoke alarm system.

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

(1)(b)  
**Corrective and Preventive Action**  
The smoke alarm system has been serviced. The service took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. A copy of the certificate was submitted to the inspectorate. The smoke alarm system will now be serviced yearly.

**Supporting documentation submitted**  
A copy of the smoke alarm system service certificate.

### Summary Comment

Based on the registered provider’s response and supporting documentation, the area of non-compliance is addressed. The regulatory requirement under Regulation 26 (1)(b) is met.

## 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 sessional service. The policy is valid until the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.