

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL088
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Naíonra Arainn Mhóir
-------------------------	----------------------

Address of Service:	An Leabh Garbh, Árainn Mhóir, Co. Donegal
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	F94 YH05
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Ray Mac Pháidín
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	20/11/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	1	PM	n/a
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	N McEndoo
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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

Naíonra Arainn Mhóir is a preschool service located on the Island of Arranmore off the west coast of Donegal. The service offers a sessional service for children between the hours of 09.15am and 12.45pm each weekday. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from a single-story building adapted for the purposes of providing an early years' service. The building consists of one single playroom with adjoining sanitary accommodation for both staff and children. A small kitchen area is also on the premises. Children have access to an outdoor play area to the front of the building.

Staffing

There is one adult employed to work directly with the children on a daily basis. There is an additional adult available to assist in the event of an emergency.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection 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. 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, person in charge, and child 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
- (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)

The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

(2)(a)(b)

On the day of inspection, there was one adult present who was employed as the person in charge and employed to work directly with children. Following a review of previous inspection information and discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that there were no new employees since the previous inspection.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for two adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for one adult.

(4)

One of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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 were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(3)
On the day of inspection there was one child present in the service being supervised by one adult.

(8)(c)
The person in charge confirmed that a second person who is familiar with the operation of the service can attend the service in the event of an emergency.

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 main entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- Materials and equipment within the care room were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored in the kitchen area, out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Soap was readily available to children to wash their hands prior to eating, after both toileting and nappy changes. Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks. Handwashing was supervised by the adults to ensure all hands were cleaned effectively.
- The sanitary facilities were observed to be kept clean and were ventilated by openable windows.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Emergency lighting was visible above the fire exits within the premises.

Outing:

- Risk assessments for outings to the local playground were present and available for review by the inspector.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A bolted gate in the outdoor play area of the premises had been removed due to recent works resulting in the area being unsecured. The gate requires refitting to minimise the risk of unauthorised exit of a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider has stated.

We have the gate attached in its original place as works are complete and will ensure gate is kept attached regardless of works in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photo submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted have been reviewed. The requirements under Regulation 23 have 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)

The registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children, available to the children at all times while attending the preschool service.

(2) (a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was securely stored in the care room. It was clearly identifiable and accessible for use in the event of a medical incident involving 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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 procedure was in place to practice and record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated the 10TH November 2025.
 - (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment and the fire detection system was dated 6TH December 2024.
- (2)
- A record referred to in paragraph (1) was available for inspection by:
- (c) an authorised person.
- (4)
- A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was found to be displayed in a visible position within the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured adequate insurance was in place for the preschool service for 22 children up until 27 March 2025.