

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DL090

Name of Service: Naíonra Bun Cranncha Teo

Address of Service: 4 Cluain Cumhaill,
Bun Cranncha,
Donegal,
F93 NT73

Email Address: naionrabuncranncha1@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Catriona Mhic Lochlainn

Type of Service Registered: Part-time

Date of Inspection: 1 7 0 5 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 19 PM 10

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate Office,
Child and Family Agency,
St. Conals Campus,
Kilmacrenan Rd,
Letterkenny,
Donegal F92 XK94

Inspection undertaken by: L Mc Glynn
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
------------	---	--------

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 Bun Cranncha is a privately run Irish language preschool service located in the town of Buncrana, Co. Donegal. The service offers part time and sessional care to children between the hours of 08.45am and 13.45pm with the sessional service operating from 08.45am-11.45pm each weekday. The service caters for children aged 2-6 years and participates on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.
Premises	The service operates from the ground floor of a two-story residential building that has been purposely adapted for the provision of an early years' service. The building is located within a housing estate on the outskirts of the town and has a fully enclosed outdoor area spanning from the front to the rear of the premises. The service consists of one large room with a second smaller room adjacent. Children's sanitary accommodation is available adjacent to the main playroom. Sanitary accommodation for adults, a storage area and an office is located on the first floor which is not accessible to children.
Staffing	At the time of inspection, the Registered Provider was the designated person in charge working with 2 other adults caring for 19 children in the morning and 10 children in the afternoon. The three adults working in the service have each obtained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. One additional adult was employed in the service to work on office duties.
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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 designated person in charge of operating the service and there was a named staff member appointed to deputise in her absence.
 (b) A sample of the records showed that the registered provider or the deputy were present at all times when the service was in operation.

The employment records pertaining to the four adults employed in the service were reviewed on previous inspection and deemed to satisfactorily meet the regulatory requirement therefore not included in this inspection report.

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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

Compliance Information:	<p>(1) During the inspection, there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.</p> <p>(3) On the morning of inspection, there were three staff members working directly with 19 children aged 2-6 years. On the afternoon of inspection, there were three staff members working directly with 10 children aged 2-6 years.</p> <p>(8) A review of the staff rota confirmed the presence of two adults on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.</p>
-------------------------	---

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:	<p>(1)(a) Three of the four parts of this section of the regulation were reviewed for this inspection.</p> <p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunches and snacks were brought in from home each day and on the morning of inspection, children were observed enjoying sandwiches, pancakes, yogurts and a selection of fruits including bananas, apples and blueberries. Each child had access to their individual drinking bottle of water at snack time and throughout the session. A calm, sociable and relaxed atmosphere was created during snack time with staff members sitting with children and engaging in conversation. Children were encouraged to be appropriately independent, and support was provided when required. Staff provided cutlery and crockery for children to enjoy their snack. The inspector was informed that children attending on a part-time basis bring enough food for an afternoon snack and a cursory glance at children's lunchbox confirmed this. Children washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the day including before snack, after using the toilet and after outdoor and messy play. Staff were heard talking with children about the importance of handwashing and visual displays in the children's sanitary accommodation provided pictorial step by step guides. Children were independent in their toileting needs and staff were observed supporting younger children when required. Aprons were available for messy play. There was a number of areas within the main playroom that provided space for children to rest and take time out of the busy play areas. A large sofa and two armchairs in the upper area of the room were arranged to create a cosy space and a number of small bench seating areas were covered with a padded
-------------------------	--

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

top to provide areas for children to sit comfortably within the main play environment.

- The space both indoors and outdoors facilitated free movement and children were observed actively moving around the environments, choosing their play items. Staff were observant during times when children were playing together and responded appropriately to minor behaviour issues as they arose.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The service operated a keyworker system whereby staff record observations on children and use these to compile scrapbooks for children. The scrapbooks contained learning stories compiled by staff, children’s artwork and feedback from parents. Staff informed the inspector that the scrapbooks are sent home on a regular basis to allow parents the opportunity to guide children’s learning and development in the service. There was also evidence of staff observations on children being used to inform planning the activities in the setting.
- Staff spoke with the inspector about the importance placed on building relationships between children in the service and their use of a ‘buddy system’. At snack time, groups of children who were enrolling in the same primary school were seated together to give them the opportunity to build friendships and ease their transition. Staff also informed the inspector that the buddy system was used in the service to support children’s individual needs when required.
- The service uses a text messaging service to communicate generic information to parents. Staff members also engage in informal conversations with parents on a day-to-day basis at drop off and collection times regarding their child’s care and if required, staff will arrange to meet individually with parents to discuss specific learning or care needs of children.
- Staff informed the inspector that they meet formally on a monthly basis and engage in on-going conversation about the running of the service on a daily basis. A wall display in the main room was labelled ‘staff ideas’ to allow for staff to be a part of the planning within the service and the inspector was informed that any ideas brought forward by staff are discussed as a team.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The playrooms within the service were colourful, inviting spaces for children. The equipment and materials within each both rooms was carefully considered with a range of plastic play materials alongside natural open-ended materials and traditional home style furniture. This created a cosy atmosphere in some of the areas and added character and individuality to the play spaces. The main room was arranged in a manner which created interest areas for children to explore. Interest areas included a home corner,

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

construction area, tabletop area with a range of resources to support developing concentration skills and hand eye coordination. A doll/baby care area, transport/garage area and a vanity area were also within the main room. A mix of both play and real-world resources were used to enhance each of the interest areas for example old kettles, saucepans, utensils and phones were used in the home areas. The second room provided sensory play opportunities for children. Staff members explained that each day sand, water, playdough and other sensory play materials are available to children in this area. The room also contained an abundance of creative art materials for children to draw, paint or create.

- An area off the main playroom was arranged as a quieter area and contained soft furnishings for children to sit and relax. Shelving units in this area contained a range of developmentally appropriate books and a large unit housed a range of dress up costumes. The area provided a space for children to take time out of the busy play environment to rest and relax whilst as the same time feel connected to the main room. On the morning of inspection, children were observed bringing jigsaws from the main play area to this smaller area and spending time focusing on their activity.
- On the morning of inspection children were observed moving freely around the rooms playing individually, in small groups and in larger groups with the environment providing appropriate space for these types of play interactions. Children were observed using the environment and play resources in a manner that was convenient to them, for example the messy play items were used in the kitchen/home area as supporting resources for play.
- Children have access to three areas for outdoor play on the premises. To the front of the building an area covered in both artificial grass and concrete ground surfacing contained both plastic and natural play materials such as a kitchen and plating beds. To the rear of the building children had access to a split-level play area with the lower level containing a large climb and slide unit, mud kitchen and swing set. Staff were observed bringing smaller resources such as trucks and cars into this area in line with the current theme of transport. The upper level to the rear of the premises provided additional planting beds and musical instruments and was covered by a large canopy providing access in all weathers. Staff informed the inspector that this area is used for a range of activities including yoga and plating herbs with children.

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 gate into the grounds was secured to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting of a pre-school child. The perimeter of the premises was enclosed with both high-level fencing and walls with the access points to each area secured.
- All toys and equipment appeared in good condition and there was no evidence of hazards. Cleaning agents and hazardous items were stored safely out of the reach of children and the kitchen was inaccessible to children at all times during the inspection.
Low level windows and glazed panels were fitted with visibility strips to prevent accidents or incidents with children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The three pre-school rooms and adjoining sanitary facilities were in a clean and hygienic condition. Up to date cleaning schedules outlining appropriate cleaning methods and the various areas to be cleaned within the playrooms and sanitary accommodation were available. Staff members were observed cleaning play areas and frequently touched surfaces after children's use and prior to snack time.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available in the playrooms and in the children's sanitary accommodation to support hand washing practices. Children were observed washing their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the day including after using the toilet, and before snack. Foot pedal operated bins were available for the hygienic disposal of waste. Ventilation was provided by a mechanical system alongside openable windows and doors.
- Attendance records for children, staff and visitors to the setting were maintained to facilitate effective contact-tracing in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease in the setting.

FIRE SAFETY:

- All exit routes were free from obstruction and records of fire drills carried out each month were available for the inspector to view.

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 person trained in first aid is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.
- (2) (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the kitchen.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency in the service.

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) A record in writing of the monthly fire drill that had been completed in the service was maintained and available for inspection with the last recorded fire drill occurring on 27 April 2022.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms located in the pre-school. Records presented at inspection demonstrated that firefighting equipment was last serviced/inspected on 20 July 2021. Upgrade works to the fire detection system had recently taken place and were scheduled for routine maintenance the week of inspection. A service/testing record dated 19 May 2022 was submitted to the inspectorate following the inspection.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was prominently displayed in each room.