

Aitheantóir TUSLA:	TU2015DL092
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Ainm na Seirbhíse:	Naíonra Chnoc Fola
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Seoladh na Seirbhíse:	F/ch An t-Ionad Pobail, Cnoc Fola, Bun na Leaca, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Dún na nGall
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Éirchód:	F92 D586
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Ainm an tSoláthraí Cláraithe:	Ray Mac Pháidín
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Cineál na seirbhíse:	Páirt-Aimseartha, Seisiúnach
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Dáta(i) na Cigireachta:	14/02/2025
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Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:	AM 11 PM -
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Seoladh na Cigireachta Luathbhlianta:	Cigireacht Luathbhlianta Dhún na nGall Campas Naomh Conaill, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Dhún na nGall chomh maith. F95 XK94
Cigireacht arna déanamh ag:	L Mac Glinn
Teideal:	Cigire Luathbhlianta

An tÚdarás chun Cigireacht a dhéanamh

Déanann Cigireacht Luathbhlianta Tusla cigireachtaí ar Sheirbhísí Luathbhlianta faoi Alt 58(J) den Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (arna chur isteach ag Alt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013).

Coinníollacha más infheidhme	Neamhbhainteach
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TÚSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Na Rialacháin fán Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta), 2016 agus na Rialacháin fán Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) (Leasú), 2016 Tagairt an Chórais um Fhaireachán Soithí: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Uimhir aitheantais na seirbhíse: TU2015DL092	1 de 10
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Cur síos ar an tseirbhís

Is Naíonra Chnoc Fola é Naíonra pobalbhunaithe a chuireann cúram seisiúnach agus páirtaimseartha ar fáil do pháistí idir 2 agus 6 bliana d'aois. Bíonn an tseirbhís ar fáil ó 9.15am go 2.10pm gach lá oibre agus críochnaíonn an tseirbhís sheisiúnach ag 12.15pm. Oibríonn an tseirbhís ó aonad féinchiimsitheach ar chúl ionad pobail. Faightear rochtain dhíreach ar an naíonra trí dhoras ar dheis den phríomhcharrchlós. Oibríonn an tseirbhís ó phríomhsheomra súgartha amháin. Tá limistéar lasmuigh ar chúl an áitribh ar féidir rochtain a fháil air ó bhealach isteach an tseomra súgartha. Tá fál teorann timpeall an limistéir a úsáideann an naíonra le haghaidh bealach isteach chuig an bhfoirgneamh agus súgartha lasmuigh araon.

An fhoireann

Bhí triúr ball foirne ag obair go díreach le leanaí sa tseirbhís ar lá na cigireachta. Tá duine de na baill foirne fostaithe faoin tSamhail Rochtana agus Cuimsithe (AIM). Ní bhíonn an soláthraí cláraithe ar an láthair go laethúil. Tá duine ainmnithe i gceannas agus leas-oifigeach ainmnithe ag an tseirbhís a bhíonn ar an láthair le linn uaireanta oscailte. Tá beirt bhall foirne breise fostaithe i gcáil faoisimh chun oibriú sa tseirbhís nuair is gá.

Modheolaíocht

Is í Cigireacht Luathbhlianta Tusla an rialtóir reachtúil neamhspleách ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta in Éirinn. Sainmhíníonn Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 dualgas soláthraí cláraithe sábháilteacht agus folláine leanaí a chinntiú agus na rialacháin seo a chomhlíonadh. Tugann an tAcht seo an t-údarás do Tusla measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh na rialachán. Is é cuspóir na rialála maidir le seirbhísí luathbhlianta ná a chinntiú go gcloítear le cúram, sábháilteacht agus folláine na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí sin. Déantar cigireachtaí ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta a phleanáil bunaithe ar an méid seo a leanas:

- Stair chigireachta roimhe seo
- Aon fhaisnéis a fhaightear maidir leis an tseirbhís

Tá torthaí na cigireachta bunaithe ar na nithe seo a leanas:

- Faisnéis a fhaightear trí dhoiciméadacht a scrúdú
- Breathnóireacht dhíreach
- Plé leis an bhfoireann ábhartha

Ní raibh an chigireacht seo réamhfhógartha agus bhí sí dírithe ar réimsí an rialachais, na sláinte, agus leasa agus forbartha leanaí, chomh maith leis an tsábháilteacht/ áitreamh agus áiseanna leanaí. Féadfaidh an chigireacht díriú ar réimsí eile freisin de réir mar is gá.

Bhí an chigireacht dírithe ar scrúdú ar an gcomhlíonadh faoi rialacháin 9, 11, 21, 23, 27 agus 28; mar sin féin, le linn cigireachta, aithníodh neamhchomhlíonadh breise a chuir riosca faoi Rialachán 8. Tá na torthaí seo leagtha amach sna rialacháin iomchuí sa tuarascáil seo.

Déantar torthaí na cigireachta a dhoiciméadú sa tuarascáil chigireachta a eisítear den chéad uair i ndrénachtfhormáid chuig an tseirbhís agus deis ann freagra a thabhairt ar aon torthaí. Nuair a shainithnítear ceanglais reachtúla mar cheanglais nach bhfuil á gcomhlíonadh, ní mór don soláthraí cláraithe a léiriú conas a cheartaigh sé an neamhchomhlíonadh agus cuirfidh sé cosc ar aon neamhchomhlíonadh tarlú arís. Úsáidfear an Plean um Ghníomhaíocht Cheartaitheach agus um Ghníomhaíocht Choisctheach (CAPA) chun bonn eolais a chur faoi chinntí maidir le comhlíonadh na gceanglas rialála. Sa chás go dteipeann ar an soláthraí cláraithe na ceanglais reachtúla a chomhlíonadh, féadfar tús a chur le próiseas maidir le géarú.

Forchoimeádann an chigireacht an ceart chun eagarthóireacht a dhéanamh ar na freagraí a fhaightear ar chúiseanna lena n-áirítear soiléireacht, iomláine agus comhlíonadh na bpróiseas riaracháin agus dlíthiúil.

Is é an comhlacht cigireachta a thiomsaíonn ábhar na tuarascála.

Admhálacha

Is mian leis an gcigire aitheantas a thabhairt do chomhoibriú an duine atá i gceannas, na foirne agus na leanaí a bhí i láthair lá na cigireachta.

Cuid II - Clárúchán agus Clárú

Rialachán 8 - Fógra i leith athrú ar chúinsí

(1) Déanfaidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse réamhscoile seachas seirbhís réamhscoile shealadach, faoi réir mhír (3), fógra i scríbhinn a thabhairt don Ghníomhaireacht faoi aon athrú beartaithe ar na sonraí i ndáil leis an tseirbhís réamhscoile atá sa chlár de bhun alt 58C(2) den Acht nó Rialachán 7(2) 60 lá ar a laghad sula mbeartaítear go dtiocfadh an t-athrú i bhfeidhm.

Faisnéis maidir le Neamhchomhlíontacht

- (1) Theip ar an tseirbhís an Ghníomhaireacht a chur ar an eolas faoin athrú agus an duine i gceannas a chur ar an eolas. Tugadh faoi deara le linn cigireachta gur fostaíodh an duine a bhí i gceannas, mar a cuireadh in iúl don Ghníomhaireacht, chun tréimhse saoire a chlúdach agus nach raibh sé ag obair sa tseirbhís le tamall anuas.

Gníomh Ceartaitheach & Coisctheach curtha isteach ag an Soláthraí Cláraithe

Gníomhaíocht cheartaitheach agus choisctheach

Tá ár dtaifid le TUSLA nuashonraithe againn, tríd an bhfoirm iarratais CIC. Cinnteoidimid nach dtarlóidh an dearmad seo amach anseo.

Doiciméid tacaíochta curtha isteach

Cuireadh deimhniú ar an athrú ceadaithe isteach.

Léirmheas Achomair

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an bhfaisnéis agus meastar gur tugadh aghaidh go leordhóthanach ar an neamhchomhlíonadh a sainithníodh faoi Rialachán 8.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe-

(a) go mbeidh sa tseirbhís duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe agus duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú a bheidh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá,

go mbeidh an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe nó an duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú dá dtagraítear i

bhfomhír (a) san áitreabh gach tráth le linn na tréimhse ina mbeidh an tseirbhís réamhscoile á seoladh, agus

(c) go bhfuil struchtúr bainistíochta soiléir sa tseirbhís ina sainithnítear na línte údaráis agus cuntasachta sa tseirbhís, agus róil agus freagrachtaí sonracha gach fostaí agus oibrí neamhíochta freisin.

(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh gach fostaí, oibrí gan phá agus conraitheoir oiriúnach agus inniúil agus cineál na riachtanas atá ag leanaí á chur i gcuntas, lena n-áirítear-

(a) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhostóirí an duine san am a caitheadh, más ann, agus go háirithe ar theistiméireacht ón bhfostóir is déanaí, más ann,

(c) breithniú ar an nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin a fuarthas ó Bhiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána de réir Acht 2012 i leith an duine, agus

(4) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (2) agus faoi réir mhíreanna (5) agus (6), go sealbhaíonn gach fostaí a bhíonn ag obair go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-óige ar Leibhéal 5 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasfaidh an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach léi sin, ar a laghad.

Faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh

(1)

- (a) Bhí duine ainmnithe a bhí i gceannas agus bhí duine ainmnithe ann le gníomhú ina ionad nó ina hionad i gcás é nó í gan bheith i láthair.
- (b) Bhí an duine ainmnithe nó an leas-duine ainmnithe i láthair i gcónaí ar an róta le linn oibriú na seirbhíse.
- (c) Cuireadh faisnéis ar fáil le linn na cigireachta faoi struchtúr bainistíochta na seirbhíse inar sainaitníodh línte údaráis, ról agus freagrachtaí na bhfostaithe.

(2)

Maidir leis na heilimintí thuasluaite de Rialachán 9, rinneadh scrúdú ar na taifid earcaíochta i ndáil le cúigear ball foirne le linn na cigireachta. Tá beirt de na baill foirne seo fostaithe sa tseirbhís mar fhreagra ar an obair, ag obair nuair is gá amháin.

- (a) Bhí naoi dtagairt scríofa agus bailíochtaíthe ó iar-fhostóirí ar fáil don chúigear ball foirne.
- (c) Fuarthas nochtuithe grinnfhiosrúcháin Garda i ndáil le gach ball foirne. Léirigh an tseirbhís freisin gur comhlíonadh an Fógra Rialála Cigireachta Luathbhlianta lena gceanglaítear ar sheirbhísí grinnfhiosrúcháin ón nGarda Síochána a athnuachan gach trí bliana.

(4)

Cuireadh fianaise dhoiciméadach ar fáil a léirigh gur bhain ceathrar ball foirne dámhachtain mhór amach i gCúram agus Oideachas Luathbhlianta ag leibhéal 5 nó os a chionn ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí.

Faisnéis maidir le Neamhchomhlíontacht

(2) (a) Ba ón tseirbhís reatha an dara tagairt atá ar chomhad do bhall foirne amháin. Léirigh athbhreithniú ar thaifead fostaíochta na mball foirne go raibh fostaíocht acu roimhe seo lasmuigh den tseirbhís reatha, agus dá bhrí sin bhí gá le tagairt ón bhfostaíocht is déanaí a bhí acu roimhe seo i gcás an bhaill foirne seo.

(4) Ní fhéadfaí a chinneadh ón bhfaisnéis a cuireadh ar fáil, go raibh dámhachtain mhór i gCúram agus Oideachas Luathbhlianta ag leibhéal 5 nó os a chionn ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí faighte ag ball foirne amháin a bhí fostaithe i gcáil faoisimh sa tseirbhís.

Gníomh Ceartaitheach & Coisctheach curtha isteach ag an Soláthraí Cláraithe

Gníomhaíocht cheartaitheach agus choisctheach

- (2) (a) Fuaireamar tagairt bhreise ón gcomhad sa phríomhoifig agus chuireamar leis an gcomhad sa tseirbhís é. Cinnteoidimid, má d'oibrigh baill foirne in áit eile, go gcuirfidh soláthraí difriúil tagairt ar fáil dóibh de réir mar a iarrtar amach anseo.
- (4) Tá an ball foirne sa tríú bliain de Chlár Céime BSC Onóracha Luathbhlianta in ATU Leitir Ceanainn. Chuir an coláiste achoimre ar na cáilíochtaí ar fáil agus dúirt sé go raibh siad seo i gcomhréir le cáilíocht leibhéal 6 QQI. De réir mar a cheanglaítear le liosta cáilíochtaí aitheanta RLCMIÓ. D'iarr muid ar an mball foirne iarratas a dhéanamh chuig an RLCMIÓ le haghaidh tuilleadh soiléirithe agus cóip a roinnt a luaithe a gheofar í.

Doiciméid tacaíochta curtha isteach

Cuireadh cóip de thagairt agus litir ó RLCMIÓ ina léiríodh go raibh tú incháilithe chun cleachtadh isteach.

Léirmheas Achomair

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an bhfaisnéis agus meastar gur tugadh aghaidh go leordhóthanach ar na neamhchomhlíonadh a sainithníodh faoi Rialachán 9.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

Rialachán 11 - Leibhéal foirne

(1) Faoi réir an Rialacháin seo, áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh líon leordhóthanach daoine fásta i gcónaí ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile.

(2) Faoi réir mhíreanna (4) agus (5), cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse cúraim lae iomláin nó seirbhíse cúraim lae pháirtaimseartha go gcomhlíonfar gach tráth an cóimheas íosta idir daoine fásta agus leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (3) de Chuid 1 de Sceideal 6 os coinne uimhreach tagartha áirithe a shonraítear i gcolún (1) den Chuid sin i leith raon aoise na leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (2) den Chuid sin ag an uimhir thagartha sin.

Faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh

- (1) Bhí líon leordhóthanach daoine fásta ag obair go díreach leis na páistí i gcónaí le linn na cigireachta.
- (2) Bhí triúr daoine fásta ag obair go díreach le 11 leanbh réamhscoile.

Cuid V - Cúram Leanaí sa tSeirbhís Réamhscoile

Rialachán 21 – Trealamh agus ábhair

Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go bhfuil troscán, trealamh súgartha agus oibre agus ábhair leordhóthanacha agus oiriúnacha ar fáil ar áitreabh na seirbhíse réamhscoile.

Faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh

Bhí an trealamh agus na hábhair súgartha laistigh agus lasmuigh sábháilte agus oiriúnach do na leanaí a bhí i láthair. Bhí na hacmhainní cothabháilte go maith, glan agus i riocht maith. Leagadh amach an trealamh sa seomra réamhscoile i limistéir spéise sainithe chun gníomhaíochtaí agus eispéiris súgartha bríocha a éascú. I measc na limistéar a thacaigh le súgradh samhailteach leanaí bhí limistéar cistine/baile/bialainne, limistéar cúraim bábóg agus leanaí, limistéar tógála/bréagán rothaí/feithiclí, seomra folctha/gruagaireachta, siopa agus oifig an phoist/stáisiún oibre. Spreagadh forbairt chruthaitheach na bpáistí trí uirlisí ceoil, limistéar leabharlainne, dramhaíl agus ábhair ealaíne. Bhí rogha trealaimh bhoird ar fáil go héasca ar sheilfeanna ísle, oscailte chomh maith le hacmhainní chun scileanna cognaíocha agus réitithe fadhbanna a chur chun cinn amhail sórtálaithe cruthanna, cláir bioráin, agus bloic phlaisteacha agus adhmaid. Cuireadh earraí súgartha agus earraí ón saol fíor leis na hábhair súgartha sna réimsí spéise. Bhí neart trealaimh bhreise ann chun go mbeadh deis ann bréagáin a rothlú agus bhí boird agus cathaoireacha de mhéid leanaí leordhóthanacha sa seomra do gach leanbh a bhí i láthair. Bhí dóthain stórais ann do threalamh glantacháin, comhaid agus earraí pearsanta as rochtain leanaí.

Bhí rochtain ag na páistí ar limistéar súgartha lasmuigh faoi dhíon a raibh cuid de dhíon air le scáthlán mór chun go mbeadh siad in ann súgradh lasmuigh i ngach cineál aimsire. Bhí an limistéar lasmuigh sábháilte agus dea-chothabháilte. Bhí trealamh ann a bhí oiriúnach d'aois agus do chéim forbartha na leanaí a bhí i láthair lena n-áirítear bus mór adhmaid, céimeanna adhmaid agus rópaí tarraingthe a threoraíonn chuig ardáin ardaithe agus sleamhnáin araon, limistéir phlandála cúlaithe, clár fídléireachta atá suite ar bhalla agus limistéir le haghaidh tochailte agus súgartha tógála.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht

Rialachán 23 - Sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas an linbh a chosaint

Cinnteoídh soláthraí cláraithe go ndéantar gach beart réasúnach chun sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas linbh réamhscoile atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís a chosaint agus go bhfuil timpeallacht na seirbhíse sábháilte.

Faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh

Sábháilteacht Ghinearálta:

- Daingníodh an fál teorann agus an príomhdhoras isteach sa réamhscoil chun cosc a chur ar dhuine dul isteach gan údarú nó ar leanbh réamhscoile imeacht gan mhaoirseacht.
- Bhí doirse inmheánacha daingnithe chun cosc a chur ar leanaí dul isteach i limistéir neamhsábháilte.
- Bhí cuma mhaith ar na bréagáin agus an trealamh go léir agus ní raibh aon fhianaise ann go raibh guaiseacha sa limistéar súgartha lasmuigh.
- Bhí na hoibreáin ghlantacháin agus earraí guaiseacha á choimeád go sábháilte in áiteanna nach féidir le leanaí teacht orthu.
- Bhí srianta curtha ar na fuinneoga agus bhí cordaí na dallóg daingnithe.

Rialú Ionfhabhtaithe:

- Bhí uisce te faoi rialú teirmeastatach, gallúnach leachtach agus tuáillí páipéir ar fáil i gcóiríocht sláintíochta na leanaí le go bhféadfaidís a lámha a ní. Breathnaíodh leanaí ag ní a lámha i rith an lae, roimh dóibh ithe agus tar éis dóibh an leithreas a úsáid.
- Cuireadh aeráil ar fáil trí fhuinneoga in-oscailte agus aeráil mheicniúil sa chóiríocht sláintíochta.
- Rinneadh an seomra cúraim agus an chóiríocht sláintíochta a ghlanadh agus a chothabháil go maith; breathnaíodh ar an bhfoireann agus iad ag glanadh na boird sular ith na leanaí agus tar éis dóibh súgradh.
- Bhí boscaí bruscair a oibrítear le cos ar fáil ar fud na seirbhíse chun dramhaíl a dhiúscairt ar bhealach sláinteach. Bhí an stóras dramhaíola lárnach suite in áit nach raibh rochtain ag leanaí air.

- Cé nár úsáideadh é an lá sin, chuir an fhoireann in iúl don chigire gur rothaítear an stáisiún athraithe clúidíní a bhí i limistéar stórála chuig an gcóiríocht sláintíochta sula n-úsáidtear é.

Cógais a Riaradh:

- Bhí beartas ag an tseirbhís maidir le riaradh sábháilte cógais. Ní raibh aon taifid ar fáil le breathnú orthu mar dheimhnigh an fhoireann nár tugadh aon chógas go dtí seo. Bhí teimpléid bhána ar fáil don fhoireann le comhlánú más gá.

Codladh Slán:

- Bhí ocht leaba urláir inchruachta sa tseirbhís le go bhféadfadh leanaí codladh orthu más gá. Bhí limistéar mór suí agus cúisíní urláir ann le go bhféadfadh leanaí a scíth a ligean nó a suaimhneas a dhéanamh i rith an lae.

Sábháilteacht ó Dhóiteán:

- Bhí comharthaíocht shoiléir ag na bealaí amach éigeandála agus ní raibh aon bhac orthu.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht

Rialachán 27 – Maoirseacht

Cinntoidh soláthraí cláraithe go ndéantar maoirseacht i gcónaí ar leanaí réamhscoile atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís.

Faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh

Le linn na cigireachta breathnaíodh ar an bhfoireann ag déanamh maoirseachta ar na leanaí, trí shúil a choimeád orthu den chuid is mó. Rinne na baill foirne iad féin a shuíomh in áit mhaith ina mbeadh siad in ann súil a choimeád ar na leanaí i gcónaí nuair a bhí siad ag súgradh. Cé gur bhain na leanaí úsáid as an leithreas den chuid is mó go neamhspleách, d’fhan an fhoireann in aice láimhe chun cúnamh a sholáthar más gá. Shuigh an fhoireann i gcuideachta leis na leanaí freisin nuair a bhí siad ag ithe. Tugadh an rogha do na leanaí súgradh amuigh faoin aer más mian leo agus breathnaíodh ar an bhfoireann ag cumarsáid go maith lena chéile nuair a bhí na leanaí ag bogadh idir an timpeallacht laistigh agus an timpeallacht lasmuigh d’fhonn maoirseacht leordhóthanach a chinntiú sa dá limistéar.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht

Rialachán 28 - Árachas

Cinnteadh soláthraí cláraithe go bhfuil árachas leordhóthanach ag an tseirbhís réamhscóile.

Faisnéis maidir le comhlíonadh

Bhí cáipéisí scríofa ann chun fianaise a thabhairt go raibh dóthain árachais i bhfeidhm don chineál seirbhíse a cuireadh ar fáil agus do líon na leanaí a bhí ag freastal.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DL092
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Chnoc Fola
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Address of Service:	F/ch Halla Pobail, Cnoc Fola, Bun na Leaca, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Donegal
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Eircode:	F92 D586
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ray Mac Pháidín
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	14/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
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Inspection undertaken by:	L McGlynn
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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 Chnoc Fola is a community based Naíonra offering sessional and part time care for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from 9.15am to 2.10pm each weekday with the sessional service ending at 12.15pm. The service operates from a self-contained unit to the rear of a community centre. Direct access to the preschool is gained via a door to the right of the main car park. The service operates from one main playroom. There is an outdoor area to the back of the premises accessible from the playroom entrance. A boundary fence encloses the area used by the preschool for both entry to the building and outdoor play.

Staffing

There were three staff members working directly with children in the service on the day of inspection. One of the staff members is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). The registered provider is not on the premises on a daily basis. The service has a named person in charge and a named designated deputy who are on the premises during the hours of operation. Two additional staff members are employed in a relief capacity to work in the service when required.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 21, 23, 27 and 28; however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8. 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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The service failed to notify the Agency of the change to the person in charge. It was noted on inspection that the person in charge as notified to the Agency had been employed to cover a period of leave and had not been working in the service for some time.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

We have updated our records with TUSLA, through the CIC request form. We will ensure that this oversight will not happen in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Confirmation of approved change was submitted.

Summary Comment

The information was reviewed and the non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 is deemed to have been adequately addressed.

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,
- (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

(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person to deputise in the event of their absence.
- (b) The designated person or named deputy were rostered to be present at all times during the operation of the service.
- (c) Information on the service's management structure was provided during the inspection identifying the lines of authority, roles and responsibilities of employees.

(2)

In respect of the above-listed elements of Regulation 9, the recruitment records in relation to five staff members were examined during the inspection. Two of these staff members are employed in the service in a relief capacity, working only when required.

- (a) A total of nine written and validated past employer references were available for the five staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

Documentary evidence was provided to indicate that four staff members had obtained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) The second reference on file for one staff member was from the current service. A review of the staff members employment record demonstrated that they had past employment outside of the current service therefore a reference from the most recent past employment was required for this staff member.

(4) It could not be determined from the information provided, that one staff member employed in a relief capacity in the service had obtained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a) We obtained a further reference from the file in the main office and have added this to the file in the service. We will ensure that if staff have worked elsewhere that a reference will be provided by a different provider as requested in future.

(4) The staff member is in her third year of BSC Hons Early Years Degree Programme in ATU Letterkenny. The college provided a summary of the qualifications and stated that these were in line with a level 6 QQI qualification. As required by the DCEDIY list of recognised qualifications. We have asked the staff member to apply to the DCEDIY for further clarification and share a copy upon receipt of the same.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of a reference and a letter from DCEDIY of eligibility to practice was submitted.

Summary Comment

The information was reviewed and the non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 are deemed to have been adequately addressed.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) At all times during the inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (2) There were three adults working directly with 11 pre-school children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The play equipment and materials both indoors and outdoors was safe and suitable for the children attending. Resources were well maintained, clean and in good condition. The equipment in the preschool room was laid out in defined interest areas to facilitate meaningful play activities and experiences. Areas that supported children’s imaginary play included a kitchen/home/restaurant area, doll and baby care area, construction/wheeled toy/vehicle area, vanity/hairdressers, a shop and a post office/workstation. Children’s creative development was encouraged through musical instruments, a library area, junk and art materials. A selection of tabletop equipment was also readily accessible on open, low-level shelving alongside resources to promote cognitive and problem-solving skills such as shape sorters, pegboards, plastic and wooden blocks. The play materials in the interest areas were supplemented with both play and real-world items. There were ample supplies of additional equipment to allow for toy rotation and the room contained adequate child sized tables and chairs for each of the children attending. There was adequate storage of cleaning equipment, files and personal belongings out of reach of children.

Children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area which was partially roofed with a large awning to allow outdoor play in all weathers. The outdoor area was safe and well maintained. It contained equipment suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending and included a large wooden bus, wooden steps and pull ropes leading to both raised platforms and slides, recessed planting areas, a wall mounted fiddle board and areas for digging and construction play.

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 boundary fence and main entrance door into the pre-school was secured to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting of a pre-school child.
- Internal doors were secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.
- All toys and equipment appeared in good condition and there was no evidence of hazards in the outdoor play area.
- Cleaning agents and hazardous items were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- There were restrictors on windows and the blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available in the children's sanitary accommodation to allow for handwashing. Children were observed washing their hands throughout the day, before eating and after using the toilet.
- Ventilation was provided by means of openable windows and mechanical ventilation in the sanitary accommodation.
- The care room and sanitary accommodation was cleaned and well maintained; staff were observed cleaning tables before children ate and after playing.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available throughout the service for the hygienic disposal of waste. The central waste storage was located in an area inaccessible to children.

- Although not used on the day, staff informed the inspector that the nappy change station that was in a storage area was wheeled to the sanitary accommodation prior to use.

Administration of Medication:

- The service had a policy on the safe administration of medication. There were no records available to view as staff confirmed that no medication had been administered to date. Blank templates were available for staff to complete if required.

Safe Sleep:

- There were eight stackable floor beds in the service for children to sleep on if required, There was a large seating area and floor cushions for children to rest or relax throughout the day.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were marked by clear signage and unobstructed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

During the inspection the staff were observed to supervise the children mainly by sight. Staff members positioned themselves so that they were able to always keep the children in view during play. Although children were mostly independent with their toileting needs, staff remained close by to provide assistance if required. Staff also sat with children while they were eating. Children were given the choice to play outdoors if they wished and staff were observed to communicate well with each other as children moved between the indoor and outdoor environments to ensure adequate supervision in both areas.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was written documentation to evidence that there was adequate insurance in place for the type of service provided and the number of children attending.