

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015DL144

Name of Service Tir na nOg Naionra

Address of Service: Gaelscoil na gCeithre Maistri, Drumbar, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. F94T863

Email Address: Eod.naionra@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Eibhlín O'Donnell

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	√	Sessional	√
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Service moving from a prefabricated unit to a designated room within the national school building.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: It is recommended to approve the change.

Registered change: Move from Prefab to Room in National School, operating Part-Time & Sessional service for 22(Max 16 Part-Time) children

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 2 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: Lisa McGlynn

Title: Early Years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time, Sessional Service for 22(Max 16 Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	21st February 2025

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Tír na nÓg Naíonra is a preschool service located in a residential area on the outskirts of Donegal town. The service currently operates from a prefabricated unit on the grounds of a Gaelscoil which is also located in adjoining prefabricated units. The service offers a sessional service for children between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30pm and a part-time service from 9.30am to 2.30pm. The service is also registered to provide school age care.
Premises	The service proposes to move to a room within the newly constructed Gaelscoil, located on the same site as the existing unit. The premises consists of a large national school with eight classrooms, a large multipurpose hall, office, kitchen and storage facilities. The service will operate from one of the classrooms on the ground floor.
Staffing	There were two adults employed to work in the service with the children on a daily basis, which includes the registered provider and one additional staff member.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

There is a named adult in charge of operating the service and a second named adult to deputise if required.

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.

Requirement met:

(1) The requirement has been met. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis and 16 on a part time basis at any

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

one time. Two staff members were employed to be present during service operation.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*

- (a) *having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (b) *there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

(2) *A registered provider—*

- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a) Adequate and suitable indoor play facilities were in place for the age range of children to be catered for. The playroom is currently laid out with a number of defined interest areas. Play resources included arts and crafts materials, role and pretend play messy play, construction materials, manipulative toys, small wood toys, combined library and rest areas, problem solving toys, and a mark making area.

(b) Adequate and suitable rest facilities, appropriate to the ages of the children and length of time in the service are in place. A corner area of the playroom is set out with floor mats, cushions and cuddly toys for children to play quietly or relax.

(2) (a) A large area to the side of the premises, covered in tarmacadam ground surfacing provided the outdoor space. A storage shed housed a range of play materials for children to engage with outdoors. There was ample space in the outdoor area for children to engage in active physical play such as ball play, cycling and running at speed.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the children will continue to bring their lunch from home and there was a healthy eating policy in place. A refrigerator was available in the room for the storage of dairy products and other perishable food items. Children will also bring their drinking bottle from home and potable water was available in the service.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The following safety provisions were noted to be in place on the day of inspection:

- The main entrance into the premises can be safely secured preventing children exiting unsupervised or persons gaining unauthorised entry.
- The perimeter of the outdoor area was secured with fencing which incorporated gates with closing mechanisms.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school rooms was easily identifiable and was observed to be clear and unobstructed.
- There were adequate provisions in place for the safe storage of cleaning equipment and materials in areas inaccessible to children.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- All toys and play resources available on the day of inspection were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the pre-school rooms and sanitary facilities. The service’s central waste storage facilities were out of reach of children.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service’s sanitary accommodation.
- Templates for recording daily cleaning activities were available and displayed in the premises to help ensure that regular cleaning was carried out and documented.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Certification of appropriate training in first aid for children was available for with an expiry date in October 2026.

(2)(a)(b) A first aid box was available on the day of the inspection with confirmation of additional supplies on order provided to the inspector.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There was a mechanism in place for recording fire drills.

(b) A record of the commissioning of the smoke alarm system was maintained and dated in January 2025. Newly commissioned firefighting equipment was expected to be delivered in the coming days for the entire school building. The registered provider confirmed that the building will not open until these are in place.

(4) The registered provider confirmed the exit route and procedures to be followed. A notice of which is displayed in the room.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The service was adequately insured for up to 22 children attending a part time service. The expiry date on the insurance certificate was 27 March 2025.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (a) The service proposes to operate from a newly constructed school building with concrete blocks and rendered in smooth plaster. The registered provider confirmed that they have no knowledge or concerns around the structural integrity of the building. On superficial visual inspection, there was no evidence of structural defects on the interior or exterior of the building.
- (b) Provisions were in place to adequately secure the building to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.
- (c) There was adequate heat, lighting and ventilation in the service. The lighting was provided by natural light leading from openable windows supplemented with florescent ceiling lights. The rooms were ventilated by openable windows and were heated by a central heating system. Each area was thermostatically controlled within the required ranges for care rooms.
- (d) The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The building was connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water and running water for cleaning.
- (e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of adults and children that will be in attendance. There were two toilets, three wash hand basins and one nappy changing bench available for children’s use.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space was provided in the care room for the work, play and movement of the 22 children that it is proposed to accommodate on a sessional basis or 16 children on a part time basis.

- (2) (3) There was 69.134m² of clear floor space to cater for the proposed number of children.