

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015DL144

**Name of Service:** Tír na nÓg Naíonra.

**Address of Service:** Gaelscoil na gCeithre,  
Máistrí Droim Bairr,  
Baile Dhún na nGall.

**Email Address:** eod.naionra@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Eibhlín O'Donnell.

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Sessional</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Drop-In</b>	
	<b>Full Day Care</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** Sessional to a Part time Service.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 22 Sessional and 16 remaining Part-Time.

**Registered change:** Sessional to a Part time Service.  
Number of Children 22 Sessional & 16 Part -Time.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	7	0	7	2	0	2	1
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**Inspection undertaken by:** A. Spain.

**Title:** Inspection Project Manager.

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Tullamore Primary Care Centre,  
Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

### Rationale for Inspection:

The service is seeking to change from a sessional to a part-time service to care for children from 9.30am until 2.30pm. Approval is sought to decrease the number of children remaining after sessional hours for part-time care from 22 to 16.

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered as a New Part time Service for 16 children.
<b>Date of Registration</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> of October 2021.

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Tír na nÓg Naíonra is located in a residential area on the outskirts of Donegal town. The service is in a prefabricated unit on the grounds of a Gaelscoil which is also located in adjoining prefabricated units. The privately operated unit is leased and in operation for the past 10 years at the present location. The service cares for children between the hours of 9.30 am and 12.30pm and is seeking to care for children up until 2.00pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) and cares for children in the age range 2years 8months to 5 years. A school age service is provided between the hours of 2pm and 3pm.
<b>Premises</b>	The prefabricated unit comprises of a hallway, playroom and both sanitary accommodation for children and adults off the playroom. An outdoor area which is shared with the adjoining school is located at the side and back of the service and a shed on the grounds provides storage for play equipment not in everyday use and cleaning equipment and materials.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service is staffed by 2 adults who have certification to confirm Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 and Level 6 training in childcare with experience in childcare varying from 4 to 12 years. One adult working in the service has also availed of Access and Inclusion model (LINK) training.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with the Registered Provider are documented in the inspection report and presented to the Registration Office for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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.

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has both a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required and both adults work in the early years service.

A reference from both a past employer and a reference from a source other than past employer were held on file in respect of both adults working in the service. A Garda vetting disclosure as conducted in July 2019 was held on file in respect of 1 adult working in the service and as conducted in September 2019 in respect of the second adult working in the service.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) A maximum of 22 children are currently cared for in the service in 1 play pod with 2 adults present at all times. Two adults are also proposed to care for up to 16 children remaining in the service after sessional hours to be cared for on a part-time basis.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service which operates single-handedly.

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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*
- (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*
  - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The play based service is equipped with play and work equipment which includes bricks and blocks, sorting toys, puzzles and board games for table top activities, miniature animals in a small animal world area, large board puzzles for floor activities, a kitchen with cooking equipment, food and utensils , a shop and dolls in a home corner, an open tray on a stand for group activities, a sand and water tray, a construction area with a farm, tool set and building blocks and containers made from natural materials, a nature table, and both a white board and arts and crafts materials which include paints, glue, scissors ,pencils and crayons. Play and work equipment is located on open low-level shelving for easy access and retrieval by children.

(b) A soft matt area with soft wipeable cushions and where on open low level book stand is located provides a suitable area for children to rest and opt out of activities as required. The tent in the playroom also provided a “quiet place” for children to rest and relax.

(2)(b) Not applicable as the service has not moved premises.

(3)(a) The outdoor area to the side and back of the service is safely and securely fenced in by corrugated fencing secured to steel posts which are bolted to the ground. The outdoor area is finished with a tarmac surface and both gates leading to the school grounds are provided with latches to guard against unsupervised exit by children in the service. Subsequent to the inspection picture evidence was received on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 which confirmed the provision of a latch on the gate leading from the outdoor play area to the adjoining road way. The shed in the yard area off the outdoor play area provides a suitable storage for outdoor play equipment not in everyday use and during inclement weather conditions.

(b) Not applicable as the outdoor play area is attached to the service.

(4) Not applicable as registration is not sought for a sessional or temporary preschool service or a service in a drop-in centre.

(5) Not applicable as the outdoor play area is attached to the service.

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.  
 The refrigerator in the playroom provides suitable storage for perishable foods and snacks provided by parents and guardians for children present on both a sessional and part-time basis. The cold water tap at the sink in the playroom is connected directly to the rising mains and individual beakers are provided for children to avail of drinking water 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.

Environment of the Service

- The door leading to the service entrance and hallway is secured with a tum lock and the glass panels on the door allows easy visibility of all approaching the service.
- A high-level door handle is provided on the door leading from the hallway to the playroom to guard against unsupervised exit by children when indoors.
- The fire door leading from the playroom to outdoor is secured at a level above child height.
- The boundaries of the ground outside both the service and the adjoining school are enclosed by concrete walls and corrugated fencing to guard against unauthorised access to both areas.
- Child locks are provided on the doors of presses under both sinks in the playroom and a separate storage press in the room.
- Cleaning agents and chemicals are stored in the locked presses in the playroom with reserve supplies stored in the shed on the school grounds which is fenced off from the outdoor play area used by children in the service.
- The prefab is used for the sole use of an early years' service and a school age service after the hours of the early years' service.

### Infection Control

The following practical infection control measures were observed on the day of inspection.

- The hallway inside the entrance door to the service and outside of the playroom was identified as an isolation area for the service.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) was located on a high level shelf in the hallway.
- The service operated 1 play pod with 2 consistent staff members present daily.
- Cones were available to position in the yard outside of the service and leading to the entrance door to promote social distancing and discourage congregation of adults at drop off and collection times.
- Signage was located on the glass panel doors at the entrance to the service as a reminder of the measures to be taken when operating a service during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- One of the 2 sinks in the playroom was positioned at child height and was provided with liquid soap and a disposable paper towel dispenser to assist with the hand washing policy for the service.
- Wall mounted hand sanitising units were located at the entrance to the service, in the hallway inside the entrance door, in the playroom and outside of the sanitary accommodation.
- Toys cleaned and rotated for use were stored on a high level shelf in the hallway outside of the playroom and on shelving in the outdoor shed.
- A press was provided in the hallway for the storage of staff bags, coats and personal belongings.
- Individual boxes were provided in the playroom for the storage of Childrens coats and boots for daily outdoor play, for the storage of lunch boxes after meal times and art work to be taken home by the children.
- Certification was available on the day of inspection to confirm that both adults working in the service had availed of online training on return-to-work safety for employees in early years services in August 2020 and on Safety Protocols in Early Years Services during the Covid-19 pandemic in January 2021.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) Both adults working in the service have certification to confirm up to date first aid training with an expiry date of November 2021 in the case of 1 adult and October 2022 in the case of the second adult working in the service.

(2)(a) A first aid box is stored on a high level open shelf in the hallway off the playroom 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 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.

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A recording system for monthly fire drills is wall mounted in the playroom and it was observed that the last monthly fire drill took place on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and prior to closure of the sessional service for the summer months.

(b) The record for the maintenance for the firefighting equipment which is wall mounted in the hallway and for the smoke alarm system indicates that an annual service was conducted in November 2020.

(4) The procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is wall mounted inside the entrance door to the service. A fire assembly point is posted on the corrugated fencing close to an exit gate off the outdoor play area.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

##### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

Insurance cover is available for the service which confirms cover for a maximum of 22 children in daily attendance of a sessional basis and 20 children in daily attendance of a part-time basis. The insurance includes cover for organised outings and is valid until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### 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 prefabricated unit was in a good state of repair and maintenance on the day of inspection with no evidence of dampness or mould growth on the walls or ceilings in the rooms in the service. Windows and doors were both water tight and weather tight when closed. The yard area outside of the service is finished with a smooth tarmac finish.

(b) The heavy-duty floor lino throughout the rooms in the service were well fitted and was clean and well maintained on the day of inspection. Walls and ceilings were brightly painted. The service is connected to the mains water and mains drainage system with a drinking water tap connected directly to the mains water supply in the playroom. The grounds outside the service and adjoining school are secured by high level corrugated fencing and a concrete wall leading to the roadway. Gates leading from the school grounds are secured with latches.

(c) The ceiling mounted fluorescent light fittings are covered with shatter proof diffusers and coupled with 7 openable windows in the playroom ensure a good mix of both natural and artificial lighting as well as ventilation in the room. The electric heaters in the playroom are secured safely to the walls and surface temperatures are thermostatically controlled.

(d) The service, storage shelving, furniture, play and work equipment were clean on the day of inspection with cleaning schedules wall mounted to

	<p>ensure regular and routine cleaning in all rooms. Foot pedal operated bins are provided in the playroom. Enclosed bins for the temporary storage of refuse were located at the back of the school and fenced off from the early years' service. The service is included in the pest control contract for the adjoining school for vermin and pest control.</p> <p>(e) Two separate toilet cubicles and 2 wash-handbasins with a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water are provided directly off the playroom for a maximum of 22 children in daily attendance. One toilet and 1 wash-handbasin with a constant supply of hot water is also available off the playroom for use by adults working in the service. Disposable paper dispensers, liquid soap and foot pedal operated bins are positioned beside the wash-handbasins.</p> <p>All sanitary accommodation is ventilated by openable windows.</p>
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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.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
  - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
  - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) An area off 86 m<sup>2</sup> in the playroom provides adequate floor space for the proposed maximum of 22 children in daily attendance of a sessional basis</p>
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with up to 16 children remaining in the service to be cared for on a part-time basis.

(2) The area of the playroom meets the space requirement to care for up to 16 children present at any one time to avail of part-time day care.

(3) The area of the playroom meets the requirement for adequate space for a maximum of 22 children cared for on a sessional basis in any one room.

(4)(a)(b) Not applicable as the proposed part-time service will operate after sessional hours in the service.

(5) Not applicable as a temporary pre-school service is not the subject of this proposal.