

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR031
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naionra Lorcaín
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Scoil Lorcáin, Cearnóg Eaton, Baile na Manach, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A94 F596
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Ann Uí Dhuibhghíolla
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	18	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Early O'Brien & S. Faherty
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector and Inspection and Registration Manager

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	NA
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### Description of service

Naíonra Lorcaín is a private early years' service located in a residential area of Monkstown, South County Dublin. The service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education scheme on a sessional basis to preschool children aged 3-6 years through the medium of Irish. The programme is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. The service is registered to operate from 09:00 to 12:30 daily from Monday to Friday and operates from one classroom within Scoil Lorcaín primary school. A large outdoor play area is available on the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs two staff members, including the registered provider who works directly in the service on a daily basis. A relief person is also available if 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 and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4) - Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1)(3) - Staffing levels

Regulation 15 (1) – Record of a pre-school child

Regulation 16 (1)(h) - Record in relation to pre-school service  
Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health, welfare and development of child  
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child  
Regulation 25 - First aid  
Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures  
Regulation 28 – Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child and regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school services.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(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 works in the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.
  - (b) The registered provider was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced at 09:55 on the morning of the inspection and was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and a review of three staff files it was confirmed that there was one new employee since the last inspection on 31 January 2023.

Documentation was reviewed in respect of all adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (a)(b) Six written and validated references were available as required. Four were available from a past employer and two from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff members demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for one adult who had spent time outside of the state of Ireland for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(4)  
All three adults employed in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On the morning of inspection there were 18 children being supervised by 2 adults.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

**(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)**

Twelve children’s records were sampled and reviewed. The records contained in ten of these meet the required information as set out in Regulation 15 (1)(a) to (i). Two records, did not contain the required information required under (1)(g) above and are non-compliant. Please refer to Regulation 23 of this report.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(h) A written record was available in the care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.

### 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, and*

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs

Heathy eating is promoted in the service and children bring their own lunch from home for morning snack time in the ECCE session. Water was available to the children from their own bottles which they had access to on a low shelf.

On the day of inspection, children were observed to take their lunchbox from the fridge at snack time and were encouraged to open and close lunch boxes and bottles and be responsible for their own belongings. Snack time was a social experience during which time the staff members sat with the children engaging in social conversations with them. Using gentle tones this promoted a relaxed atmosphere.

Children are encouraged to use the toilet and engage in handwashing independently with assistance provided where needed. They are also encouraged to engage in teamwork at clean up time.

The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive to the needs of all children.

Within the daily routine of the service, on the day of inspection children moved about the care room freely, engaging in free play activities which interested them construction and stories.

A cosy area, consisting of cushions was available for children to take a break from activities if needed.

### **Supporting Relationships**

The children appeared happy and content and were engaged and relaxed within the care room and in the outdoor play area. They were given ample time to complete activities before moving to the next one. The staff members were heard encouraging children to be mindful of the feelings of those around them which promoted an ethos of friendship and teamwork.

Transitions were handled very smoothly on the day of inspection and the children appear to be used to their routine and know what to expect.

As the children are consistently cared for by the same adults, this has enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and develop their confidence and autonomy within the service.

### **Physical and Material Environment**

The indoor environment was laid out in such a way that children had easy access to resources and interest areas within the room. These were suitably resourced with materials available such as a home corner, a play kitchen, a library area, an arts and crafts and mark making station, construction area, and activity boards.

Children's artistic creations were displayed on boards within the room.

On the day of inspection, children were observed to have two separate opportunities to play outdoors. The outdoor space is shared with the primary school and times are allocated daily. This area was adequately supervised, safe and secure with the children dressed in warm jackets, hats and gloves. The equipment and materials available provided appropriate learning opportunities for the children based on their age and stage of development. Children were observed to have autonomy in leading their play choices without the direction of the staff member. In this area children have access to an activity wall with guttering for pouring, mud kitchen, large trays with soil for messy play, shovels and plant pots, a climbing and balancing activity built by the children using boards that appeared safe.

### **Programme of Activities**

During the inspection it was evident that children's individual choice was respected in the daily routine in which they are encouraged to participate. There are picture cues and visual displays on the wall at their level to support them to make decisions on their play throughout the day. Children were observed to make choices on their own

play materials within the environment, engaged in movement activities and relaxing activities both individually and as a group.

Positive language was observed to be used across the staff team and with the children. Language development was supported in discussions observed both at snack time and in the outdoor areas where the adults encouraged the children to use words to describe their thoughts and feelings.

### 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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

##### General Safety:

The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid any unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised,

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environments were safe and free from hazards,

Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of the reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

Liquid soap, paper towels and warm water were available to facilitate handwashing for both staff and children.

Lunch boxes that included perishable food items were stored in the fridge in the care room in line with safe food guidance

Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.

Tables were observed by the inspectors to be cleaned after before and after snack time.

##### Administration of Medication:

Staff detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

### Fire Safety:

On the day of inspection, all emergency exits were observed to be clearly identifiable and were not obstructed

### Outing:

The registered provider explained that outings are undertaken with the children to a local pet farm. Prior to any outing a risk assessment is carried out and the staff members explained the procedure in line with the services outings policy.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. On the day of inspection when sampling children's records, two of the twelve records reviewed in the sampling of regulation 15 did not contain information in relation to the child's medial practitioner. This poses a risk to the health and safety of a child in the event of a medical emergency.

#### Infection Control:

2. On return indoors from outdoor play at 10:15, children's hands were not washed, and they were observed to proceed straight to play. This practice was also observed at 11:45 on return indoors for lunch. It is acknowledged that children's hands were washed before snack at 10:30 and hand sanitiser provided to children prior to lunch but this practice posed a risk of infection and cross contamination for the children and is not in line with the services policy on infection control.

#### Administration of Medication:

Procedures and practices in place for children attending the service requiring medication were at variance with the service policy, posing a potential risk to the health and safety of children.

3. There was no documented care plan in place for one child who requires emergency medication, contrary to the services Emergency Medication policy.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

In correcting this non-compliance from the day of inspection, the registered provider has now ensured that this information is included on the children's record cards. To prevent this from re-occurring in the future, the registered provider will ensure that all registration forms are fully completed prior to the children commencing their place in the service.

**Infection Control:**

The registered provider will now ensure that children always wash hands on return from outdoor play. To prevent this non-compliance from re-occurring in the future the registered provider will ensure that the infection control policy in relation to handwashing is followed at all times.

**Administration of Medication:**

The registered provider now has a care plan in place for a child requiring emergency medication. In the future, all children’s registration forms will be checked and where a diagnosis is disclosed whereby a child required emergency medication, a care plan will be put in place prior to the child’s start date.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Infection Control:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Administration of Medication:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Summary Comment**

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance.

### 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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

While it is acknowledged that the staff employed by the service have current paediatric first aid training, the current certification of one staff member trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) expired in July 2024. Due to the number of children who attend the service and to ensure that first aid is available for children at all times, the registered provider is required to ensure that a staff member with FAR is available at all times to the children

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has now enrolled to undertake FAR training over the summer. To ensure that there is a FAR trained person at all times, a second adult will undertake FAR training in 2026 with this training being refreshed every alternate year.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider has submitted photographic evidence of her enrolment on a FAR training course on 03 July 2025.

#### Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed the actions submitted by the registered provider to adequately address the non-compliance and this will be inspected on the next inspection.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
  - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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)
- There was evidence of a record of fire drills being carried out monthly, the last recorded fire drill was documented as having been carried out on 18 March 2025.
- (b)
- A service record was maintained for the fire detection system and smoke alarms. These were last serviced on 27 March 2025.
- Firefighting equipment service records were available demonstrating that this equipment is serviced annually and was last serviced 18 February 2025.
- (4)
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places throughout the service

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance which expires on 18 August 2025 for a sessional service which covers a maximum of 18 children