

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS024		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Teach na Leanaí		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ionad Pobal, Rathcuil, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 DX57		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gráinne Breathnach		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/06/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	H Sutherland and S Quigley		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

Teach na Leanáí is a privately owned sessional and school age service located in an urban area in Dublin 24. The service operates from Rathcoole community centre and comprises of two care rooms. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is offered through the Irish language, Monday to Friday 38 weeks of the year. The session runs from 9:00am to 12:00 pm for children aged 2 to 6 years and extends to school age provision in the afternoon. Additionally, the service has a fully enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises which is shared with another early year's service.

### Staffing

There are three staff employed to work in the service including the registered provider. On the day of inspection all three staff were present caring for eleven children.

### 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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

9(1)(a), (b), (c) (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment  
11(1), (3), Staffing Levels

16 (1) (j)(k) Record in relation to pre-school service

19(1)(a) Health, welfare and development of child

23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

25 First Aid

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*
- (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,*
- (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*

*(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained present for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place and conversations with staff demonstrated an awareness of their individual roles and responsibilities within the service.

(2)

Conversation with the registered provider confirmed that there are currently three adults employed in the service along with an external contractor employed to provide dance classes to the children.

The files of all four adults were reviewed and met compliance as follows:

- (a) Four written references were available from past employers and were appropriately verified.
- (b) Four written references were available from a reputable source other than a past employer and were appropriately verified.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) No international police vetting required.

(4) Documentation was available to show that three adults who work directly with the children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children to meet their care needs. There were three adults available to the eleven children present.
- (3) The required adult to child ratio was maintained for the duration of the inspection.

### 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:*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) The registered provider advised that the service has not been required to administer medication. Appropriate documentation was available in the service to record the administration of medication should the need arise.

(k) Accident and incident records maintained by the service were available for review on the day of inspection. A sample of eight records were examined and found to contain the required information.

### 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

Children's snack time was observed to be relaxed and sociable and children were encouraged to enjoy their food in an unhurried manner. Snacks were provided by the parents and the service provided a large tray of fruit which was observed to be accessible to children throughout the day. Children's individual water bottles were available and accessible and staff were observed to encourage children to take their water with them when going outside. Children were supported to be self-caring and independent. For example, taking responsibility for their own belongings, using the toilet independently, washing their hands and tidying up following play.

Outdoor play was facilitated and children were observed to engage in a variety of activities that supported their physical development and social interaction.

Interactions between staff and children were observed to be warm and responsive. Children's voices were heard and their choices were respected. For example, some children were observed sitting at the table doing artwork, two of the children decided not to take part in the activity and were observed to engage in play in another area of interest. Staff were observed modelling positive dispositions to the children such as fairness and patience. For example, staff intervened during moments of challenge such as turn taking and guided children to find positive solutions. Staff described how they provide opportunities for informal communication with parents and families at drop of and collection time. The service also uses an app to share photographs capturing learning moments, news and updates providing a link between the service and the home and strengthening continuity of care and learning.

The environment was laid out to allow children to find and return items of interest with ease and offered a variety of resources to support children's learning and development. For example, the home corner supported imaginative play, during the inspection one of the children was using this area to cook dinner providing the child with the opportunity to explore real life experiences. Other areas such as a library, a construction area, small

world, tabletop activities and a mark making area were also available. Children were observed using materials from the mark making area throughout the inspection fostering the development of fine motor skills and creativity. The equipment and materials available in the outdoor area supported children's play and exploration. For example, a sand box, a slide, swings, ride on toys and a climbing frame were available to encourage challenge, risky play, physical and imaginative activities.

### 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:

- Doors both internal and external were appropriately secured to restrict unauthorised access and prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Staff demonstrated awareness of children with allergies in the service, including knowledge of the symptoms to watch out for. Documentation was available detailing procedures to be followed and two auto adrenaline injectors were available on site. Staff confirmed they had received training on administering auto adrenaline injectors.
- Toys and play equipment used by the children were observed to be safe for the age of children using them and in good condition.
- Cleaning materials and temperature reducing medication were stored safely in a high press which was inaccessible to children.

##### Infection Control:

- The premises was observed to be clean and well maintained, with documented cleaning schedules available for review.
- Liquid soap, warm water and single use paper towels were available at wash hand basins. Children were supported to wash their hands after nappy changing, using the toilet and before lunch. Staff were also observed to follow appropriate hand hygiene practices.
- Staff were observed to sanitise children's tables in preparation for lunch.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated knowledge of the procedure to safely administer medication to a child and documentation was available for use should it be required.

### Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Staff demonstrated knowledge of the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire and documentation was available to show drills are carried out monthly within the service with the most recent drill carried out on 19 May 2025.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Trailing electrical cables were observed in both care rooms. Cables from the fridge and stereo in Seomra a haon and the cable from the fridge in Seomra a dó were observed to be easily accessible to children. This risk was identified on the previous inspection dated 15 June 2023.

Unsecured electrical cables can pose a risk of entanglement or injury if tampered with by children.

#### Infection Control:

2. A child size couch in Seomra a dó was observed to have a large tear on the surface. A piece of fabric had been used to cover the tear but had come away leaving the hole exposed and a visible build-up of residue on the back of the fabric.

The exposed tear and residue posed an infection control risk, as the surface cannot be effectively cleaned or sanitised.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Cables in Seomra a dó were secured to the wall with cable covering. The furniture in Seomra a haon was rearranged to secure cables. The registered provider will carry out daily safety checks to ensure there are no loose cables.

#### Infection Control:

2. The child size couch in Seomra a dó was removed from the care room. The registered provider will carry out daily safety checks to ensure there are no infection control risks, items that pose a risk will be removed immediately.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Digital images submitted.

#### Infection Control:

Digital images submitted.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 25 - First aid

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

### Compliance Information

(1) A person trained in First Aid Responder was immediately available to the children for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in presses in both care rooms and stored safely in an easily accessible and prominent position.

(b) The first aid box was observed to be easily available to the adults caring for the children attending the service.