

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS056		
Name of Service:	Naíonra Tír na nÓg		
Address of Service:	Ionad an Pharóiste, Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20		
Eircode:	D20 K732		
Name of Registered Provider:	Grainne Ní Mhuirí		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	23/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow		
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
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	N/A		

Description of service

This not-for-profit childcare service was established in 2014 and has been operated by the current registered provider since July 2021. Early education and care is provided on a sessional basis to children aged from two to five years of age through the medium of the Irish language. The service provides one session from 9.30am to 12.30pm for 38 weeks of the year and is registered to accommodate a maximum number of twenty-two children. The service operates from a room in a parish centre in a residential area of Dublin southwest. The children had access to a recently refurbished outdoor play area located adjacent to the pre-school room. The service also has use of a large hall for indoor play when not in use by other groups.

Staffing

There were three adults employed to work directly with children; the registered provider does not work with the 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

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 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 reoccurring. 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 co-operation of the service manager and staff members who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

The service manager confirmed that three adults had been recruited since the last inspection on the 11 February 2020 and the staff files for these adults were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for three adults.
 - (b) References from other sources were not required.
 - (c) Garda vetting was available for three adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult for whom it was required.
- (4) All adults had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were three adults working with fourteen children.

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) The records of children attending were reviewed. The records contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.

- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
- (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including eating together, playing together and other interactions between children which were well managed by adults who were caring for them.

Adults working with children ensured that their individual needs were identified and met effectively. There was support from adults for children to negotiate resolutions rather than solving problems for them. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example, by tidying up and helping to give out snacks.

During activities adults used opportunities to extend children's learning and development using the Irish language which children identified with as activities were based around children's interests. Adults working with children

modelled good Irish language skills describing what children were doing and providing new words to build on their vocabulary.

The materials and equipment were presented effectively and included a good range of developmentally appropriate equipment, arts and crafts materials and other open-ended materials which were well organised and provided ample opportunities for children to participate in activities. The children spent time in the outdoor area where they had access to a large range of play equipment and materials including an outdoor dining area, a shop and kitchen area to support imaginative play.

Healthy eating was promoted in the service and parents provided snacks for children attending; drinking water was readily available. The snack time observed was relaxed and children were given ample time to finish food at their own pace while adults engaged them in conversations. Children were encouraged with self- toileting and were supported regarding appropriate hygiene practices including hand washing after toileting and before eating.

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) Two adults working in the service had First Aid Responder (FAR) training and were available to children attending the service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available.

(a) It was stored safely in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available to children at all times.