

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS070
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Naíonra Chnoc Liamhna
-------------------------	-----------------------

Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna, Room 1, Delaford Ave, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D16 F9W8
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Bernadette White
-------------------------------------	------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	19/02/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	No.
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C.Harte
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	Not applicable.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

Naíonra Chnoc Liamhna is a community sessional pre-school delivered through the medium of Irish in South Dublin. The service is located on the grounds of Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna and caters to a maximum of 22 children at any one time. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme offering two sessions per day Monday to Friday 8:30am-11:30am and 11:45am-2:45pm. The service has one care room with two adjoining toilets. There is a fully enclosed outdoor space at the front of the building that the children have access to daily. There is a smaller outside space at the rear of the premises and a large indoor hall that is also available for use by the service.

Staffing

The service employs six staff who all work directly with the children. The registered provider works in the service and was present on the day of the inspection with three staff members.

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 areas of governance and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required. The person in charge was present in the service when the inspector arrived and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2) Discussion with the person in charge and a review of the staff roster showed there are currently 6 staff employed to work in the service. The files of all 6 staff were reviewed.

(a) Nine written and verified references were available from a past employer.

(b) Three written and verified references were available from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for all 6 staff members.

(d) There was no evidence to show that any staff member required police vetting.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 6 staff who worked directly with the children held 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.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), 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 ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(3) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children on the day of the inspection. Three staff were caring for nineteen children when the inspector arrived in the service.

(4) Ratios were maintained on the morning of the inspection. The following was observed:

- In the care room at 9:35am -11:00am three staff were caring for 19 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 6 years.
- In the care room from 11:00-11:50am four staff were caring for 19 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 6 years.

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;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)(h) A review of available records demonstrated an accurate reflection of the children’s attendance.
- (i) A staff roster was available detailing start, finish, and break times of staff on a daily basis for both the morning and afternoon session.
- (k) A record was available with all required details to document any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- Toys and equipment were grouped into defined interest areas including sensory and messy play area, imagination area, reading and resting area, art and crafts, and construction area. The defined areas contained a range of resources which promoted play and curiosity. For example, in the imaginative play area real phones, shampoo bottles and cream containers were available providing for real life experiences. The art area included a painting easel, range of colours and paper for crafting and mark making supporting early literacy, expression, and creativity.
- The large outdoor area was secure, and children had access to materials supporting gross motor development. On the day of the inspection the children played with a range of hula-hoops outdoors. The inspector was advised that the service have access to the school’s outdoor equipment which included hockey sticks, tennis rackets, bean bags and footballs. When using the large indoor hall, the service was also able to use the school gym mats.
- The tables and chairs observed in the care room were an appropriate size for the children attending and allowed them to engage in activities and mealtimes comfortably.

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:

- The service entrance was secure with a magnetic lock, and staff attended the door to allow access. This prevented unauthorised persons entering the service and prevented children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Blind cords were secured and safe.
- Toys and play equipment were observed in good condition.

Infection Control:

- Warm water and soap were available in sanitary area to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Tables were disinfected and children were observed washing their hands before lunchtime.
- Perishable food items were stored in the fridge in individually labelled containers.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation routes were clear and unobstructed.
- Staff were aware of the evacuation procedure.

Non-Compliance Information

Administration of Medication:

1. There was no care plan available for a child with emergency medication. This is not in line with services policy which states a medical care plan will be developed in conjunction with parents where medical conditions exist for a child.
2. One emergency medication which expired March 2023 and three other emergency medications which the inspector was advised are no longer required were on the premises. This is not in line with the services policy which states any medication that has expired or is no longer needed by the child will be returned to the parent or guardian and a record kept.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Administration of Medication:

1. A medical care plan has been written up for the children that need it, spare care plans are kept for new children if required.
2. Expired medication has been returned to the parent.

Preventive actions:

- All staff members have been shown the care plans and how to fill one in and plans are checked regularly.
- Medicine will be by staff members and management. The date is noted on the care plan too.

Supporting documentation submitted

Template care plan

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and supporting document submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been 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 review of the roster and First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates for two staff showed that the registered provider ensured that a person trained in FAR was available to the children during the opening hours of the service.

(2)(a)(b) An adequately stocked first aid box was available in the service. It was stored appropriately out of reach of the children but immediately available to the staff as needed.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider ensured that a record of fire drills was maintained in the service. The record showed that fire drills are completely monthly with the last fire drill taking place for both the morning and afternoon session on the 26th January 2024.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was reviewed. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced 14th September 2023 while the smoke alarm was last serviced on 30th January 2024.
- (4) Notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency was displayed in the care room.