

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

| | | | |
|--|--|----|-------|
| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015DS085 | | |
| Name of Service: | Naíonra Santain Teoranta | | |
| Address of Service: | Scoil Santain, Avonmore Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin | | |
| Eircode: | D24 TW35 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Jean O'Neill | | |
| Service type: | Sessional | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 23/11/2023 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 15 | PM 11 |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown. | | |
| Inspection undertaken by: | Olivia Quill | | |
| 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 Santain Teoranta is registered to provide a sessional service to children aged from 2-6 years. The service is located on the grounds of Scoil Santain, Tallaght. The service operates from a prefabricated building and consists of two classrooms with a separate entrance to each room. A designated outdoor area is available to the rear of the building which can be accessed directly from each room. A morning and afternoon service are offered Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 11:30am and 12pm to 3pm.

Staffing

Five adults including the registered provider are employed in the service. On the 23 November 2023 six adults were present this included two adults who were employed on a community employment scheme.

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

The inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child

Regulation 16(h),(i),(j) and (k) Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire safety measures.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the 23 November 2023 under Regulation 25 as there was no one on the premises with in date First Aid Responder training. The registered provider submitted a response on the 24 November 2023 outlining plans for a staff member to complete First Aid Responder training from the 11 to the 13 December 2023.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

(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

(2) The files of seven adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included files for two adults who were employed on a community employment scheme. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (a) Of the fourteen validated, written references that were required, eight were available from a past employer.
- (b) A further four validated, written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the seven adults.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that five staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
 - (a), (b) There was no written validated reference available for one adult.
 - (d) Police vetting was not available for one adult who lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (a), (b) These references have been received and verified.
- (d) Police vetting was obtained for this adult.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of validated references and police vetting.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service 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.*

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 a sessional service was adhered to at all times during the inspection. In the Red room there were eight children attending the service being supervised by two adults and in the Blue room there were seven children attending being supervised by two adults.
- (8) (c) Not applicable, the registered provider does not operate the service single-handedly. The staff roster demonstrated three adults are present during the hours of operation.

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 sample of records were reviewed for ten children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:
- (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) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
 - (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
 - (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
 - (h) Parents provided a record of the immunisations their child had received.
 - (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

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;*
- (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

- (h) A daily record of each child’s arrival and departure was recorded.
- (i) The staff roster was available and detailed the staff working in the service.
- (j) A record was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was obtained to administer medication if required. To date no medication has been given to any of the children attending the service.
- (k) A suitable form was available to record any accident, injury or incident.

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

(1)(a) Children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school. During the morning children were observed enjoying free play. Children were given the opportunity to choose their own play equipment and their choices were respected by staff. Children were observed doing a variety of different tabletop activities including making jigsaws, building blocks, painting and using play dough. Staff supported the children in their play as required and gave positive feedback to children for work completed. There was a calm atmosphere in both care room and warm interactions were observed between staff and children. Staff were familiar with children's individual needs and supported these needs in different ways for example through changing the environment at specific times as required. Staff confirmed they communicate daily with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service.

Healthy lunches were provided by parents and lunch time was observed to be relaxed and sociable. Children sat together and engaged in conversation while enjoying their food. Each child had their own individual water bottle and milk was available at lunch time. Children used the toilet independently. All children spent time in the outdoor area playing together.

Both pre-school rooms were equipped with suitable child size tables and chairs. Designated areas of interest included a home corner, construction area, library area, art area. Each area was well resourced with suitable equipment. Additional equipment including jigsaws, blocks, small world toys and animals were easily accessible from the low-level shelving provided. Rest areas were available to allow children to take a break and rest from activities as required.

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:

- A separate entrance door was provided for both pre-school rooms. The doors were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid 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 appeared in good working order.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In both preschool rooms the safety guard in front of the radiators was not secured to the wall. This posed a potential injury risk if a child were to move it.
2. Two children who moved between the care rooms were not signed out on the room register and marked in on the register of the room they moved to. This posed a potential safety risk in the event of a fire on the premises.

Administration of Medication:

3. Temperature reducing medication was not available on the premises. This was contrary to the medication policy which stated, "We will keep a bottle of temperature reducing medication in the fridge for emergency use." There was no medication record available to record medication available in the event it was required.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The caretaker has secured the fireguards to the wall.
2. Both children have been added to the registers in both rooms and movement breaks have been recorded since the inspection date.

Administration of Medication:

3. The service now has temperature reducing medication on the premises and staff will record if it ever has to be administered.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Administration of Medication:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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) A suitably equipped first aid box was observed to be immediately accessible to the children in both care room in the service and was stored in a conspicuous location on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 23 November 2023 as a person trained in first aid was not immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection. The registered provider submitted a response on 24 November 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) First Aid Responder (FAR) is booked for 11th 12th and 13th December 2023. Cert will be submitted on completion. The registered provider will ensure that first aid training is ongoing at a staggered rate. This will ensure that staff members will always have FAR training.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written email to confirm FAR booking and receipt of payment.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 19 October 2023.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 01 February 2022 and the 28 July 2023 for the smoke alarms.