

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS149
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Chrónáin
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Aras Chrónáin Ionad Cultúrtha, Bóthar an Úllorid, Cluain Dolcáin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D22 X856
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Meadhbh Ní Cheallaigh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	25/04/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E. Mulhern
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra Chrónáin is a not-for-profit, sessional, early years service provided through the Irish language. The service is offered to children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years. It opens Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 11:30pm and 12pm to 3pm. The service operates out of two cabins and an outdoor area on the grounds of Áras Chrónáin Irish Cultural Centre.

### Staffing

There are five staff employed to 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

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(2), (3) & (4), 11 (1) & (3), 16 (h), (j) & (k), 19(1)(a), 25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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 inspection focused on the recruitment procedures for staff employed since the previous inspection dated 22 April 2021. The person in charge reported that no new staff had been recruited since that date.

## 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) There was always an adequate number of adults available to the children.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was always maintained. There were 5 adults working directly with 27 children aged 3-5 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;*
  - (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) Attendance records were available detailing each child's arrival and departing time daily.
- (j) The person in charge reported that no medication had been given to a child attending the service.
- (k) A sample of eight accident and incident records were reviewed dated from 6 March 2023 to 24 April 2023. The records included the required information. It was evidenced that the records are shared with parents via an app.

### 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

The inspector observed that the children's learning, development and well-being was supported by the environment and the staff. Children moved freely between the cabins and the outdoor area according to their preference. All areas were laid out to support the children's independence. Low level hooks were provided for bags and coats with the children's names and photographs attached. There were clearly defined interest areas including construction areas, art and craft areas and home corners. There was a variety of equipment and materials including books and puzzles visible and accessible to the children on open shelves. Areas with soft seating and cushions were available for children to rest or take a break from activities. Children's identity and belonging was promoted through art displays and family photograph walls. The staff communicated with parents/guardians via an app and when children were arriving or leaving.

The outdoor area was spacious and contained natural elements including plants, a bug hotel, mud, sand and water. There was equipment to support full-body movement and a range of play experiences including a climbing frame, slides, ride-on toys and dolls houses. Picnic benches were available for eating outdoors or table-top activities. All children had clothing available including raingear and wellington boots so they can play comfortably outdoors in all weather.

The inspector observed the children engaged in free-play and activities of their choice. The children participated in collaborative and turn-taking play and discussed their play and ideas with staff. Each child had an individual 'As I Am' record which had been completed by parents prior to the child starting in the service. This included the children's preferences and additional needs if any. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the children's dispositions and supported all children to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme.

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. The children used the toilet as they needed with staff reminding and assisting them to wash their hands afterwards. The inspectors observed the staff interacting warmly with the children, engaging positively and supporting them in their work and play.

The children brought food and drinks from home. The inspector observed lunch to be a social occasion; the children and adults sat and ate together and engaged in conversation.

## 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.*

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Administration of Medication:

The service had two children in attendance who may require emergency medicine in the case of an anaphylactic reaction. The individual care plans that were available to manage the anaphylactic reactions did not contain sufficient detail. One of the children's records which included parental consent did not include the child's surname. The name of the oral medication staff stated was to be given was not documented. Neither of the forms appropriately outlined the steps that should be taken to safeguard the children in this event including contacting emergency services.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

Individual care plan updated & circulated.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of care plans.

### Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider have been deemed to appropriately 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

(1) First Aid training certificates were available evidencing there was always a person trained in first aid available to the children.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in easily accessible and conspicuous positions.

(b) A first aid box was always available to the children.

### 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) Records were available of fire-drills carried out in the service. The last fire drill recorded was dated 31 March 2023.
  - (b) The service had a record outlining the firefighting equipment in the service. The last recorded date of maintenance was 29 September 2022.
  - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) A record was not available regarding the maintenance of the smoke alarm.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Installation of new smoke detection system connected to building alarm system and scheduled in annual maintenance and service check. To be achieved by 23 June 2023.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Record relating to intruder alarm maintenance and change of batteries in fire alarm system only.

#### Summary Comment

The actions submitted have been deemed appropriate in addressing the non-compliance. However, the regulatory requirement remains outstanding until the actions have been completed.