

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS219
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Name of Service:	Naionra Eiscir
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Address of Service:	Chinese Gospel Church, Esker House Annexe, Esker Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 V250
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Name of Registered Provider:	Frances Carr
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	27/01/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	N/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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
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Description of service

Naionra Eiscir is a privately owned early years service which was established in 2014 by the current registered provider. The service operates from a purposely adapted premises on the grounds of the Chinese Gospel Church in Lucan, South Co. Dublin. Sessional care and education are provided by the service to early years children aged from two to six years on a school calendar basis. The premises consists of two open plan care rooms and sanitary accommodation. An outdoor play area is available on the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs four staff members, including a designated person in charge. On the day of inspection, all four staff members were present and an adult on a work placement programme. The service manager arrived subsequent to the inspector's arrival to facilitate the inspection. The registered provider was not present during the inspection.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

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 to the registered provider on the 28th January 2025 following the inspection in respect of Regulation 9(2)(c), Garda Vetting. There was no Garda Vetting disclosure available in the service for an adult working directly with the children on the day of inspection. A response was received from the service which sufficiently mitigated the risk identified.

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

(2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of all four adults employed to work in the service. Regulation 9 (2)(c) was assessed for seven adults, including the centre manager, registered provider, and an adult on a work placement programme.

The following records were available for the adults:

(a) (b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from two sources for the four adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for six of the adults. The service demonstrated adherence to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years in relation to one staff member.

(4) There was evidence that each of the four staff members had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and education at level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (c) A Garda Vetting disclosure was not available in the service on the day of inspection for one adult present and working directly with the children. An immediate action notice (IAN) was issued to the registered provider on the 28th January 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Going forward, Garda Vetting paperwork will be filed immediately in the correct files to try to prevent paperwork going astray. Also, all students will be informed that they must allow the service to apply for our own Garda Vetting for them before they can undertake their work placement.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twenty pre-school children attending the service on the morning of inspection being supervised by four adults during the inspection.

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 documentation was reviewed for twelve children currently enrolled to attend the service by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to points (a) to (i) of the above regulation for each of the records reviewed.

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

- (1)
- (h) A record was available in the care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection. A review of documentation evidenced that attendance records had been maintained daily in the service.
 - (i) An accurate record was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.
 - (j) There was one record of administration of medication available in the service. Staff stated medication is not typically administered to children on a regular basis. However, the necessary documentation was available to record the administration of medications when required, and the record available met the necessary requirements.
 - (k) Records of accidents/incidents which had occurred in the service were available on the day of inspection. The records reviewed contained the required information, including evidence that a parent/guardian had been appropriately informed.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

Children's drinks were available in the rooms at all times. Staff supported the children to wash their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection. Children were observed using the toilet independently, with staff offering support where required.

The children were all provided with the opportunity to play outdoors and were dressed appropriately to the weather. Staff demonstrated kindness and affection during all interactions observed by the inspector, and comfort was provided promptly if a child became upset. The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led, and children were visibly content and engaged in their play and Montessori based activities throughout the morning session. Independence was promoted and children were encouraged to tidy up following play and assist in handing out bags at snack time.

The adults were observed to have a supportive role in the children's learning and play, getting involved only when invited by a child or to extend the child's learning through scaffolding. Adults were observed to offer continuous praise and encouragement towards the children. Time was consistently afforded by the staff members for open-ended, exploratory conversations when prompted by the children. Staff alerted children in advance of transitions which ensued smoothly to new activities such as tidy up time, snack time and outdoor play time. This provided the children with adequate time to finish what they were doing and prepare for the next activity.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance gate was 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 were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before snack. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Three low level presses in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation were unlocked and accessible to the children during the inspection. The presses contained bottles of cleaning products and posed a potential risk of harm to a child.
2. A trailing cable was hanging in reach of the children from a high shelf to an air filtration unit in one of the care rooms which may pose a risk of harm to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Child-proof locks were added to the doors of the presses in question as soon as possible and are now in use.
2. The trailing cable has been securely fastened to the wall with tape out of reach of little hands.
These matters will be included in risk assessments going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

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

(1)

A person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.