

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY146			
Name of Service:	Glór na nGael Náionra			
Address of Service:	Sli Sheantraibh, Baile Munna, Dublin 9			
Eircode:	D09 HF58			
Name of Registered Provider:	Melissa Ní Fhionnagáin			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	13/10/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	21
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K			
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson			
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

Glór na nGael Naíonra is a full day care service located in a residential area of Dublin 9. The service is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 32 children aged 2 to 6 years Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 5.15pm. There are two care rooms in the service. The Seomra (2 and a half to 5 years old); provides full day care from 8.00am to 1.15 pm. The Cabin (2 years and 8 months to 5 years old) delivers two sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes, from 8.30am to 11.30am and 11.45am to 2.45pm. The service is also registered to provide school age childcare in the afternoon.

Glór na nGael Naíonra operates from a single storey premises with the Cabin located to the rear of the outdoor play area in a separate prefabricated structure. Other facilities in the main building include a kitchen, staff room, cloak room, and two offices. There are sanitary facilities in the main building and the Cabin and there is a fully enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the main building.

Staffing

There are currently 12 staff employed by the service including the registered provider, the person in charge and five childcare staff who work directly with the children, an administration worker and four childcare staff employed under the Community Employment (CE) programme who are supernumerary and undergoing training. The person in charge manages the oversight of the CE staff. There were 12 adults present on the day of the inspection including the registered provider, the person in charge, five childcare staff, four CE staff members and a volunteer.

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, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1)(h)(j)(k) – Record in relation to Preschool Service.

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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

(1) The registered provider ensured that;

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was outlined in staff job descriptions.

(2) The staff roster was reviewed and discussed with the registered provider. It was established there were four adults new to the service since the last inspection on the 25 September 2023 and these full files were

reviewed along with Garda Vetting disclosures for four adults whose files were reviewed on the last inspection. The registered provider ensured the following:

- (a) Five validated written references were available from recent past employers.
 - (b) Three validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all eight adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) There was documentary evidence available that established that no adults required international police vetting.
- (4) The two adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) Documentary evidence available indicated that three adults had commenced employment within the service prior to the checks outlined in (2) being completed. For example:

- Two adults commenced prior to garda vetting being available.
- Two adults commenced prior to references being validated.

Checks on adults must be completed prior to them having access to the children in order to establish they are appropriate to have access to children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3) The service has created a checklist to add to each staff members file, to ensure that no staff member will commence employment without staff member having Garda vetting, up to date C.V and all references verified. The manager will ensure to check before employment commences

Supporting documentation submitted

Checklist document.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(3) has been addressed.

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.

(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

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs.

- There were six staff available to work directly with the 22 children present on the morning of the inspection and the 21 present on the afternoon.
- The CE childcare staff and a volunteer were available to support with room set up and other auxiliary support.

(4) The adult to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection. For example:

- The registered provider was available to provide cover for lunch breaks.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
- (e) the facilities available;
- (f) the opening hours and fees;
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (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) The registered provider ensured the following was maintained:
- (a) Details of the name, position, qualifications, and experience of all staff were maintained within the staff files and were displayed on the wall in the hallway.
 - (b) The service Tusla certificate detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services. This was displayed on the wall in the hallway.
 - (c) The policy document outlined the adult: child ratios.
 - (d) The policy document outlined the type of care or programme provided.
 - (e) The policy document outlined the facilities available within the service.
 - (f) The parent handbook and policy document outlined the opening hours and fees of the service.
 - (g) The registered provider maintained all the policies required in accordance with Regulation 10.
 - (h) Attendance records detailing the daily arrival and departure of the children were maintained.
 - (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.

- (j) A template was available to record the administration of medication. The registered provider reported that no medication had been administered to children since the last inspection on 25 September 2023.
- (k) An accident and incident book was maintained to record details of any incidents that occurred. A review of a sample of four records ensured a full record in writing was maintained for accident and incidents.

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

The registered provider ensured the following:

- There was an adequate supply of toys and resources available to suit the age range and number of children attending the care room.
- Furniture in the room was suitable for the age and stage of development of the children.
- Toys and equipment were laid out on low-level shelving, accessible to the children.
- Play and work equipment available included construction toys, transporting toys, mark making equipment, role play with a range of props and books.
- There was sensory play equipment and props freely available such as water, sand, and play dough.

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 following measures to safeguard children were observed:

General Safety:

- Cleaning products were observed to be stored out of reach of children.
- The television in the Seomra was safely secured to the wall, with cables secured out of reach of children.
- Up to date risk assessments were completed and this was observed in action, for example appropriate cloths to mop up spillages around the water play area.
- The outdoor area was fully enclosed.

- The entrance gates to the service were secured with a magnetic lock which was managed by staff. This restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- Appropriate bins were available to support effective waste disposal.
- Children were supported to handwash after outdoor play and before lunch.
- Liquid soap and hygienically dispensed paper towels were available at all sinks used by staff and children.
- Children's lunches sent in from home were appropriately refrigerated.

Administration of Medication:

- A bottle of fever reducing medication was available and stored appropriately.
- Staff reported being aware of the care needs of the children, with no children currently attending requiring any ongoing medication.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

The following posed a potential risk to children safety.

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. The blind cords on the blinds on the windows in the Cabin room were not secured, posing a potential injury risk.
3. The water temperature in the wash hand basin used by the children in the Cabin room exceeded the recommended temperature of 43°C. A temperature of 49.8°C was recorded by the inspector at 9.57am. This posed a scald risk to the children.

It is acknowledged that the tap was a mixer tap and that the staff member reported that she was aware of the issue and supervised handwashing ensuring the water was at a comfortable temperature for the children.

Infection Control:

4. There was no warm water available in the sinks in the sanitary accommodation used by the children in the Seomra which did not provide for effective handwashing. A temperature of 15.8°C was recorded by the

inspector. It is acknowledged the registered provider reported that they have recently engaged the services of a plumber to address the issues around the water temperature in the premises.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The garda vetting disclosure was updated. A Garda vetting expiry date document has been created and attached to the front of staff folder. This document will be checked every month to ensure Garda vetting is reapplied for before expiry date.
2. Blind safety clips were fitted to the blind cords. Blind cords will be checked daily to ensure their safety, and a checklist was developed to support this.
3. The service confirm that the temperature has been regulated by a plumber with a temperature balancing valve to ensure temperature doesn't go higher than 40 degrees. The water temperature will be checked daily to ensure safety, and a checklist was developed to support this.

Infection Control:

4. The service confirm that the temperature has been regulated by a plumber with a temperature balancing valve to ensure temperature doesn't go higher than 40 degrees. The water temperature will be checked daily to ensure safety, and a checklist was developed to support this.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Evidence of updated garda vetting, copy of checklist.
2. Photographic evidence, safety checklist.
3. Photographic evidence, safety checklist.

Infection Control:

4. Photographic evidence, safety checklist, plumbers' report.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have 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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in each care room and there were signs displayed indicating this.
 - (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and readily available.

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 firefighting 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) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 30 September 2025.
 - (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were serviced on 21 February 2025 and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 1 September 2025.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each of the care rooms