

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY150				
Name of Service:	Naíonra Bharra				
Address of Service:	CLG Naomh Fiambarra, Ascal an Fhasaigh, Cabrach, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	D07 TFT2				
Name of Registered Provider:	Éilís Uí Longáin				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	04/11/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>26</td> <td>PM</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </table>	AM	26	PM	12
AM	26	PM	12		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	M. McDonnell
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

Naíonra Bharra is a privately owned service based in a Gaelscoil which is sited on a Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) campus in Dublin City. While the service is registered to provide a sessional service from Semora Mór, a room in the Gaelscoil, on the day of inspection there was a second room, Semora Eilís in operation in a prefabricated building. The service is registered to provide sessional care to children aged 2-6 years old from 8.30 to 11.30am and from 12.00 to 3.00pm. The service provides Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The sanitary facilities are accessible from the room. There is an access to an outdoor area at the side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The registered provider employs eight staff members. All work directly 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 area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child, safety and premises. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 25 First Aid, a

Regulation 26 Fire Safety, Regulation 27 Supervision and Regulation 28 Insurance. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations in 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 II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider failed to notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service. The service was found to be operating a second room, Semora Eilís, from a prefabricated building on the premises which has not been approved by the Agency. Change in circumstances applications were submitted in 2022 and 2023, however these applications were not approved.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The registered provider submitted a change in circumstances (CIC) form to the inspectorate in December 2025.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the CIC submission.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted documentation to process the change and at the conclusion of the report the change was awaiting approval by the Inspectorate. Regulation 8 (1) therefore remains non-compliant until the change has been approved.

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.

(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) The registered provider had a designated person in charge of the service, and a there was a named person to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the person in charge, and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation the designated person in charge or the named person in charge were on the premises.

(c) On discussion with staff members there was a clearly defined person and deputy person in charge to ensure lines of accountability.

(2) The recruitment files of the registered provider and eight staff members were reviewed.

(a)(b) There registered provider had a written reference available for themselves and sixteen written and validated references were available for the eight staff members.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available for all staff members, and the registered provider. However, the service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years following a review of staff members previous employment in the service. This is examined in Regulation 23.

(d) International police vetting was not required for the registered provider or seven staff members following a review of documentation available. The police vetting required for one staff member was available.

(4) There was evidence that the seven staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) Following a review of documentation available the inspector could not confirm that one staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4) The registered provider stated that the staff member has applied to complete an appropriate course. As a preventive action the registered provider stated that all staff qualifications to be checked annually and that the Board must ensure that on future employment the staff members have the relevant qualification.

Summary Comment

The preventive action outlined by the registered provider to ensure this non-compliance does not re-occur has been accepted. However, in respect of one staff member the non-compliance remains outstanding as evidence that the staff member has an appropriate childcare qualification has not been submitted.

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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) On the inspectors' arrival, the adult child ratio was observed to be correct and remained so throughout the inspection.

- In Seomra Mor during the morning session there were 4 staff members and 18 children
- In Seomra Eilis during the morning session there was 1 staff member and 8 children
- In Seomra Mor during the afternoon session there were 3 staff members and 12 children.

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
- (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

Supporting relationships around children

The interactions between the staff and children were kind and caring, with gentle words of encouragement and soft tones observed to be used throughout the day. Children were observed to be happy and relaxed and involved in a variety of activities that were readily accessible to them. Staff were observed playing games with the children and interacting with their imaginative play. Staff were aware of supporting children with additional needs and described daily communication with parents. For example, after a child had built using the construction blocks, the child asked if they could send a photograph of it home. A staff member took the time to check with the child that they were happy with the photograph before sending it.

Basic Needs

Water was accessible to the children within their rooms. Children were provided with meals from the home and staff members sat with children whilst they ate and chatted with them about their interests and families. Children were observed to use the toilet independently with staff remaining close by for support if required.

Physical and material environment

All the activities available and equipment was easily accessible to the children in clear plastic containers stored at a low level. Children were observed taking out materials and toys on their own and then staff engaging in the play with them.

The children had access to an outdoor area at the side of the service. There was an enclosed pitch area. There was a play structure with slide, benches and tyres readily available for play. There were also balls, and ride on toys available for the children.

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 had a secure entrance to the service with a buzzer system in place. This prevented any unauthorised access to the service and exit from the service by children.
- Cleaning agents and medications were stored out of the reach of children.
- Warm water, which was thermostatically controlled, paper towels and soap were available for hand washing.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years as there was no updated Garda Vetting disclosure for a member of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider stated that the Garda Vetting updated was required for a member of staff who changed role and this is in process and that Garda Vetting updates are in place for all staff and board members.

Summary Comment

Following the submission of the corrective and preventive action plan the renewed Garda Vetting disclosure was not submitted is still outstanding and Regulation 23 remains non-compliant.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in a First Aid Responder (FAR) course was available. There were four staff members with FAR and three were available on the day of inspection.
- (2) (a) (b) The first aid equipment was available in the kitchen which was conspicuous and easily accessible to staff members. The first aid equipment available provided adequate resources in the event of a first aid emergency.

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) A record of the most recent fire drill on 15 October 2025, was available for review. The service had maintained a record of monthly fire drills.
- (b) The maintenance records for the fire extinguishers demonstrated they were last serviced on 3 December 2024 and the fire alarms on the 21 October 2025.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the rooms sampled on inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed staff supervising children primarily by sight throughout the period of inspection. The layout of the rooms supported staff in being able to maintain sight of the children. This was evidenced as staff were able to support children sharing and engaging with different toys, whilst they completed activities with other children.

Staff were aware of children who needed to use the sanitary facilities that were located adjacent to the rooms. On collection children were appropriately supervised. Staff members ensured children remained in staff’s presence until their parent or guardian had arrived. Children told the inspector that they must wait until staff told them it was ok to go.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service was appropriately insured for 32 children from 28 March 2025 to 27 March 2026.