

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY151
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Neasáin
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Address of Service:	Scoil Neasaín, Bohar Mhuic Auhlari, Baile Harmain, Dublin 5
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Eircode:	D05 VF95
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emma Beaddie
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	L Jameson
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 Neasáin is a privately operated sessional service located in a room in Scoil Neasáin, Dublin 5. The service offers two daily sessions, 08:30am – 11:30am in the morning and 12:00pm – 03:00pm in the afternoon, over 38 weeks of the year. The service operates the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The service comprises of a care room with sanitary accommodation. An enclosed outdoor area is available within the school grounds.

Staffing

The registered provider employs three staff members who work directly with the children. On the morning of the inspection, two staff members were present. The registered provider arrived at the end of the morning session to support 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2) and (4) Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing Levels

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Child

Regulation 24 Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 28 Insurance

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, 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.

(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was present all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) The full staff record of one adult who had been employed since the last inspection was reviewed along with the Garda vetting disclosure of two staff members which had expired since the last inspection.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for three 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) Police vetting was not required as the staff member had not lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or longer, after the age of eighteen.

(4) Evidence was available to show that the one adult who worked directly with the children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) (b) Although two written references were available in relation to the staff member there was no evidence to show that either of these references had been validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The references on file for one staff member have been validated, signed and dated. The registered provider has updated their recruitment process to include validation of all references for new staff prior to commencement of employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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) The registered provider ensured that adequate staff were working directly with the children in the service and that ratios were maintained at all times.
- (3) On the morning of the inspection, two staff were caring for 22 children aged 3-5 years old.

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

- (1) (b) The following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:
- Staff members communicated with the children primarily through the Irish language, respectful and meaningful interactions were observed on the day of the inspection. Staff members praised the children on their accomplishments and used positive language and recognition.
 - Staff members were attentive to the children's needs, for example, a child became upset during an activity. A staff member was observed to soothe and comfort the child, using kind, reassuring tones and body language.

- The children appeared to be happy and confident on the day of the inspection. The children had freedom of movement around the care room and staff members encouraged them to explore their environment, promoting the children's independence and imagination.
- Staff members were knowledgeable about the children's individual needs, likes and dislikes, demonstrating strong relationships and familiarity between staff members and the children.
- A family wall, photographs and children's artwork were displayed throughout the care room, promoting identity and belonging and supporting links between the service and home.
- During circle time, the children and staff members chatted about colours, sang songs and took turns playing games.
- At snack time, children took turns to pass lunch to their peers who were seated at the tables, the children displayed excitement, patience and turn-taking skills. This practice also supports social and cognitive development.
- Two children were observed to have a minor disagreement at snack time. Staff members were observed to listen to and support the children to resolve the disagreement in a calm and prompt manner.
- Staff members offered discreet supervision and guidance to children during toileting and handwashing.

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 that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed:

- A selection of books was available to support children's language development.
- A cosy corner with soft furniture was available in the care room, providing a space for the children to rest or engage in quiet activities.
- Low level tables and chairs were available, offering the children a comfortable place to enjoy meals and tabletop activities.

- Toys and materials were accessible on low level shelving which allowed children to access them independently.
- Equipment and materials were in good working order. Play materials including jigsaws and puzzles, blocks, magnets, animals, dolls and buggies and a home corner with supporting equipment like pots and pans were available to the children, facilitating a range of spontaneous play experiences and promoting imaginative play.
- The children had access to art and craft materials, for example, on the day of inspection, children were observed to take part in a gluing and sticking art 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

General Safety:

- The entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the care room.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of the children.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed to take part in appropriate hand washing practices before snack time.
- Lunches were stored in the fridge to ensure perishable items were kept cool.
- A pedal bin was used in the care room and sanitary accommodation, reducing the risk of repeated touch to surfaces.
- Windows in the care room were open which allowed for circulation of air and reduced the risk of cross infection.

Administration of Medication:

- Emergency medication was observed to be in date and out of the children's reach.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of the inspection, the fire exit was clear and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

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 to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. Grapes present in two children's lunch boxes were not quartered or halved, posing a choking risk. It is acknowledged that a staff member quartered the grapes when this was brought to their attention by the inspector.

Administration of Medication:

3. There was no written medical care plan available detailing information about two children attending the service who may require emergency medication. This information should be readily available to support staff in the event that one of these children required the medication to be administered.
4. Medication for one child was not kept in the original packaging. Medication should be kept in the original packing to ensure all relevant information regarding administration and dosages are readily available to staff.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A Garda vetting renewal application has been submitted for one staff member. The registered provider will renew all staff vetting within the 3-year timeframe outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. A text message was sent to all parents/guardians to inform them that going forward in grapes must be cut into quarters. All parents will be informed of this requirement at the beginning of the school year and staff will be more vigilant at lunchtime to ensure grapes are cut.

Administration of Medication:

3. A care plan has been made for each child that requires one and they are in the care room for staff members to reference when needed.

- The medication was returned to the parents of the child and has been replaced by new medication that is clearly labelled and in its original packaging. Medication will not be accepted unless it is in its original packaging.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.
- Photographic evidence has been reviewed in relation to the above.

Administration of Medication:

- Photographic evidence has been reviewed in relation to the above.
- Photographic evidence has been reviewed in relation to the above.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance 2 - 4 under Regulation 23. However, non-compliance 1 will remain outstanding until the document has been received by the inspectorate.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

- Staff were observed to greet children on arrival and their attendance was recorded in a timely manner.
- (a) The service entrance was adequately monitored by staff, the person in charge greeted the inspector at the door to allow access to the care room.

Non-Compliance Information

(b) A visitor book was not available to the inspector on arrival to the service. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection, dated 07/06/2023 and the corrective and preventive actions have not been maintained. It is acknowledged that upon discussion with the registered provider, a visitor book was kept in the service, although not in use on the morning of the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The visitor book is now kept on the counter with daily records. Any visitor to the service will be asked to sign in and out going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence has been reviewed in relation to the above.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 24.

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) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous location on the premises and were available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, no staff member trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children. A sufficient number of adults must be trained with First Aid Responder training and available to children at all times to include cover of appointments, leave and breaks. It is acknowledged that one staff

member had valid Paediatric first aid training. While one staff member holds FAR they were not present in the service on the day.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Three staff members have now completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training and are awaiting certificates. The registered provider will ensure training will be renewed every 2 years.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 25. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured to reflect the type of care provided. The insurance certificate had an expiry date of 27 November 2025.