

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY228

**Name of Service:** Tír na NÓg

**Address of Service:** Na Fianna GAA Club, St Mobhi Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Co. Dublin

**Eircode:** D09 AY09

**Name of Registered Provider:** Carmel Wall

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 09/10/2024

**No of pre-school children:** AM 30

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Nelson
<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).

**Conditions if applicable** Not applicable.

### Description of service

Tir na Nog is a sessional service located in a residential area of Dublin 9 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 33 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday during term time.

Tir na Nog operates from two care rooms within Na Fianna GAA club. Room 1 is on the ground floor and is divided by moveable partitions to create Pods 1 and Pod 2, and Pod 3 is in a second room which is on the first floor. Each of the Pods cater for children in the 2 to 5 years age range. There are sanitary facilities located off each of the care rooms. The service has access to a fully enclosed outdoor area to the front of the premises.

### Staffing

There are currently four staff employed by the service including the registered provider. Present on the day of the inspection was the deputy person in charge and two childcare staff.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 deputy 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)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was present during the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place, and staff reported being aware of this.

(2) The files of all four staff were reviewed and the registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a)(b) Eight validated written references were available from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer for the four files reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members employed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence showed that none of the adults had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

(3) Documentary evidence available showed that all of the checks outlined in (2) had been carried out prior to any of the adults having contact with the children in the service.

(4) The four staff who worked directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

### 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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their basic care needs. There were three staff available to the 30 children.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Three staff were allocated to work directly with the 30 children who were present on the day of the inspection with a breakdown as follows:

- Pod 1, room 1 - 1 adult to 10 children aged between 2 years 8 months-5 years old.
- Pod 2, room 1 - 1 adult to 10 children aged between 2 years 8 months -5 years old.
- Pod 2, room 2 - 1 adult to 10 children aged between 2 years 8 months -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-

(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

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured the children's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated through the following:

##### Basic Needs:

- Children had the freedom to move within their pods and choose their own play experience.
- Children's behaviour was supported by staff using effective strategies such as modelling appropriate behaviour, praise and encouragement. Staff were observed to support children to resolve their own conflict when a minor dispute arose over a toy.
- Children were observed to enjoy a leisurely lunch time experience where they were given the time to eat their lunch at their own pace.

##### Supporting Relationships:

- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies such as eye contact and being at the children's level.
- Staff reported that information on any updates regarding the service are shared with parents via an online messaging application and at conversation at drop off and collection.

##### Physical and Material Environment:

- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for children. Toys, equipment and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured the children's independence and facilitated their choice.
- The materials and equipment provided facilitated a range of play experiences such as role play, creative play and language play.
- Displays of children's artwork were visible throughout the rooms.

### Programme of Activities:

- Staff discussed their plan of activities for the children, and this was reflective of the activities in the room. There were visual aids available to indicate stages of the daily routine.
- Children's language was supporting through strategies such as the use of running commentary and clear description in both English and Irish language.
- Transitions were observed to be signalled using props such as a timer and music. This facilitates smooth transitions. The children were observed to be relaxed and calm throughout the transition from lunch to large group circle time in room 1 which involved the joining of pods 1 and 2 and the movement of the partitions in the room.

### 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 were observed to safeguard children:

#### General Safety:

- Entry to the service was managed and monitored by staff to restrict entry by unauthorised persons. Door latches were in place up high out of reach of children to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- Cables from a speaker were observed to be out of reach of children.
- Radiators were observed to be covered.
- The outdoor play area used by the children was observed to be fully enclosed.
- Cleaning products were observed to be stored up high out of reach of children.
- Staff were observed to immediately clean the floor after sand play, thereby reducing slip hazards.
- Grapes in children's lunch boxes from home were observed to be cut into appropriate bite sized pieces.

#### Infection Control:

- The premises appeared to be in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.
- Children were observed to hand wash before lunch and there was thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and dispensed paper towels available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Foot-pedal operated bins were observed to be in use throughout the rooms.

## Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were observed to be unobstructed.
- Children's attendance was recorded accurately in the attendance books.

## 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 documentary evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.

## 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

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (1)(a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 20 September 2024.
- (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 November 2023 and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 22 July 2024
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each of the care rooms