

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY402
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Bogha Baistí
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gael Scoil Inse Chór, Droichead na hInse, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D08 NR26
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Nóilín Cahill
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	02/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra Bogha Baistí is privately owned and registered to operate a sessional service including the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service caters for children from the age of 3 years to 6 years of age and operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.30pm. The early years service is located in a prefabricated premises on the grounds of Gaelscoil Inse Chór in Dublin 8. An outdoor play area is provided to the rear and side of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider and a second adult are employed to work directly with the children. An additional worker is employed to provide relief cover. On inspection the registered provider and a second adult were present.

### 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/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 - Management and Recruitment, 11 – Staffing Levels, 16 – Record in relation to Pre-school service, 19 – Health, welfare and development of child, 23 -

Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child and 25 – First Aid, 26 – Fire Safety and 29 – Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 – Record in relation to Pre-school 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, 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

(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) and (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. The designated person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Since the last inspection on the 18 June 2021 one additional staff member was employed by the service to provide relief cover. This file was reviewed as detailed below:

(a) Two validated written references were available from a past employer for this adult.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available.

(d) Police vetting was not required as the adult did not live outside the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4) A record was available evidencing the staff member who was employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

*(1)* An adequate number of adults was not working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

*(3)* The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to. There were fifteen children attending the service being supervised by two adults on the day of inspection.

*(8)(c)* There were two adults on the premises at all times.

## 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)* The service maintained the attendance record for each child daily.
  - (i)* A staff roster was available.
  - (k)* A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed. The forms were completed correctly including both the staff and parent’s signatures.

#### Non-Compliance Information

*(j)* There was no medication record for one child who received medication. On reviewing the accident and incident records it was observed that temperature reducing medication was given to a child on the 19 of January 2023. The inspector requested to see the medication record for this, and staff confirmed it was not completed.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

*(j)* The medication treatment record was completed as required. The medical treatment forms will now be readily available for future use. All staff have been reminded to complete form.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written record submitted.

#### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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

*(1)(a), (b)*

Parents provided healthy lunches for their children including a selection of sandwiches, wraps, yogurts and fresh fruit. Children brought in their own water containers and drinking water was also available in the care room. Lunch time was sociable children and staff sat together and engaged in conversation. Children were observed to enjoy lunch which was relaxed and unhurried.

Staff supported children to be independent in caring for their belongings and using the toilet. The staff present interacted warmly with all children and spoke in a positive way and listened to each child. Children's choices were respected with children in the Pre-school room being given the opportunity to choose their own activities during free play. Throughout the morning the children were observed to be immersed in a variety of activities including painting, building, using picture cards with learning supported by staff which encouraged children to extend their interests. Transitions between activities was managed well by staff and children were given sufficient time to prepare for the next activity. Staff confirmed they communicate daily with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service.

The pre-school room had an open plan lay out and was well equipped with age-appropriate materials and Montessori equipment which were easily accessible on low shelving provided. Designated areas of interest provided were a home corner, a library area and nature area. Materials included paint, music making toys, construction blocks, shape sorters, jigsaws. These materials supported all areas of development including gross motor, fine motor skills, cognitive and language development. Children's art was displayed. Aprons were available for messy play and tissue were easily accessible for children on low level shelving provided. Children were observed to enjoy time spent in the outdoor area engaging in messy play, riding bikes, and playing on the slide and climbing frame.

### 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

- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- Blind cords were appropriately secured.

##### Infection Control:

- The premises, equipment and materials were clean and maintained in good condition.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children's hands were washed at appropriate times including after cleaning their nose, using the toilet and before eating.
- Waste was appropriately disposed of with the use of pedal operated lidded bins.

##### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were unobstructed and the fire assembly point was clearly marked.

##### Outing:

- The service has an outings policy for the conduct of outings. No outing took place during the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. When the inspector arrived at the service the door to the pre-school room was not safely secured and unauthorised access was possible and there was a potential risk a child could leave the room unsupervised.
2. In the outdoor area a heavy chalk board was positioned against a fence and was not secured posing a potential injury risk if it were to fall on a child.

##### Infection Control:

3. In the outdoor area stagnant water was present in one of the water tables posing an infection control risk.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. A sign to alert staff to ensure that the door is securely locked after each exit/entrance has been placed on the door. Staff will be reminded to secure door daily.
2. The chalk board was removed and disposed.

**Infection Control:**

3. The water play receptacle was emptied and cleaned. Staff will ensure that the receptacle is emptied daily and the lid is securely placed on top to prevent dirt/ rain water entering. Staff will ensure that fresh water is added every day for water play and this action will be documented in our daily cleaning routine

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Infection Control:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Summary Comment**

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. 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 for children was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

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

#### Non-Compliance Information

(2) The first aid box was not suitably equipped. There were no plasters available.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The first aid box was restocked a fresh supply of plasters were purchased on the 2 May 2023. The medical box will be inspected monthly and a checklist provided to ensure all necessary items are present. This will be recorded monthly and signed by staff.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence submitted.

#### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 18 April 2023.
  - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 30 March 2023 and 28 April 2022 for the smoke alarms.
  - (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous locations throughout the service

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,

#### Compliance Information

- (d) The inspection focused on the maintenance of the sanitary areas and pre-school room due to non-compliance on the previous inspection. The walls were painted in the sanitary areas and the floor covering in the pre-school room was replaced.