

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY405
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Beag
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Address of Service:	7 Cambridge Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6.
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Eircode:	D06 A6X7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ciannait Ní Riain Uí Broin
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte
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 Beag is a privately owned pre-school service located in a residential area of Rathmines. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and offers a sessional childcare provision to pre-school children. The service is play-based curriculum and there is a strong emphasis on the Irish language. Naíonra Beag is open from 9am to 12pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service operates from the registered provider's home which has been purposely adapted for use as a pre-school. The care room is bright and airy with direct access to the garden. The children's sanitary area is close to the care room. There was a fully enclosed outdoor play area featuring a variety of surface types to enable all year-round use.

Staffing

The registered provider operates the service single-handedly and has a second person familiar with the operation of the service available nearby to help in the event of an emergency.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1),(3),(8)(c) Staffing Levels
- Regulation 15(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i) Record of a Pre-school Child
- Regulation 19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

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 and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) Two Files were reviewed on the day of the inspection. The following was available:

(a) (b) Two written references were available from a past employer and two written references were available from a source other than a past employer. References available for the second person were validated by the registered provider.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for two 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) International police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the registered provider who was working directly with the 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

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 were working directly with the pre-school children throughout the inspection.

(3) On the morning of the inspection there was one adult working directly with nine children.

(8)(c) The registered provider verified the person on call was next door if required.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of eight children’s records who currently attend the service were reviewed. These records contained all the information required under (a) to (i) above.

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 to be in place to support the children attending:

- The registered provider interacted with the children in a respectful and caring manner regularly using the Irish language to label objects and support conversation.
- Children were regularly reminded to use the toilet and were offered assistance if required.
- Clear guidance was given to the children during activities and transitions to support their understanding of the daily routine. This provided beneficial for children who recently joined the service.

- The registered provider was observed to assist a child in the garden problem solve while using a climbing frame with calm and patient approach using encouraging language.
- Children were encouraged to hand up their coats following time outside and to place on their own aprons for an activity asking a peer to assist if needed with the Velcro. This promoted independence and the fostering of relationships between the children.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a social experience. Children were joined at the table by their peers and the registered provider. Snacks are provided by the service. Children prepared their own personalised pizza on the day of the inspection. They engaged in discussion about ingredients and the impact of food to the body. A food option with alternative ingredients was available for a child with a dietary requirement enabling participation in the activity and meal.
- All children present on the day of the inspection were observed to access the outdoor area. The outdoor area included a variety of materials facilitating a wide range of play using equipment such as sand, a climbing frame and shed area for small world and creative play.

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 was secure when the inspector arrived unannounced. The registered provider attended the door to allow entry. This prevented unauthorised persons from gaining access.
- Cables and flexes were observed stored out of reach of children.
- Fingers protectors were observed in place on the door leading to the garden.
- Toys and equipment were observed to be in good condition and suitable for use.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands following toileting and time in the outdoor area.
- Warm water and dispensed soap were available in the sanitary area supporting effective hand hygiene practices.
- Windows were open for ventilation allowing fresh air to circulate.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available supporting infection control practices.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for two adults. However, one 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'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

General Safety:

Garda vetting was immediately applied for, and updated vetting has been received.

Preventive Action

A reminder has been set on the calendar to check Garda vetting annually.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Garda vetting documentation.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has 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

- A review of available documents demonstrated that a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was available to the children during the operating hours of the service.

(2) (a)(b) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box was available and not accessible to children.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that the following records were available:
- (a) A record of monthly fire drills completed in the service.
 - (b) A record in writing was reviewed of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. A maintenance check for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was carried out in November 2023.