

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL032
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Name of Service:	Bothan na NÓg
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Address of Service:	15 Mount Eustace Park, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 K5T9
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Name of Registered Provider:	Leona Smith
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne & E Saini
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Bothán na nÓg is a privately owned preschool was established in 2009. It offers a sessional service for children from the age of 2 to 6 years old, from 9am to 12pm and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates from a purpose-built log cabin with an outdoor area in the back garden of the registered provider's private residence. It consists of one classroom with sanitary facilities.

Staffing

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was present to care for the children. The service operates singlehandedly. In the event of an emergency, a second familiar person familiar with the service is available.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4).

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(c).

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)(2)

Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1)(a)(b) (4)

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 inspectors wish 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, and the following was available.

(a)(b) The registered provider had two written references and ensured that the emergency contact person had two written and validated references.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both the registered provider and emergency contact person.

The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as registered provider and the emergency contact person had not lived in a state other than the State for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The registered provider held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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)(3) On the day of inspection, there was one adult working with 10 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 5 years old, with ratios being maintained at all times.

(8)(c) A second person who is familiar with the operation of the service was available to provide assistance to the registered provider at all times and is located within close distance of the service and is available to attend in the event of an emergency

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 room was bright, spacious, and well maintained.
- There was a wide range of play materials and equipment to include a variety of Montessori materials which were available and suitable to the age and stage of development of the children, promoting independence and developing their play opportunities. Children were observed to take activities of their choice which were accessible on low level shelving.
- Tables and chairs were of suitable size and available for eating lunch and for table-top activities.
- Children’s artwork was displayed on the walls.
- There was a family wall displayed on the wall, promoting a sense of identity and belonging for the children.
- The outdoor area consisted of a soft artificial grass surface and provided opportunities for the children to play through a range of activities and play equipment to include a climbing frame with slide, swings, a sand pit, water play and a outplay kitchen with supporting equipment.

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 external gate and door of the service were secured to prevent a child from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent an unauthorised person from entering the building.
- The arrival and departure time of each child and the registered provider to the service was documented daily in the service roll book.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the care room by means of openable windows and doors.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Children in preschool room were supported and encouraged to wash their hands before and after snack time and toilet visits.
- The premises was in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.
- Tables were cleaned in preparation for snack, by the registered provider.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper towels were available at the wash hand basin in the sanitary facility used by the children.
- Children's food from home that contained perishable items were refrigerated on arrival to the service.
- Lidded pedal bins were present for the disposal of rubbish and paper towels.

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 evidence that one adult was trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) A Suitably equipped first aid box was available and was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

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) The last recorded fire drill of the service was carried out in the service was 19 September 2024.
 - (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms demonstrating they were serviced in October 2024.
 - (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the care room of the service.