

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL218
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naionra Mol An Oige
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St Brigids Community Centre, Naomh Brid, Baile Bhlainseir, Dublin 15. Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 KX9E
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Joanne McEvoy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	16	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency, Second Floor, Unit 4&5, Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne, C Kerrigan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

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

This service is located in Dublin 15. A sessional service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years for two sessions between 8.30am to 11.30pm and 12.00pm to 3.00pm each day. The service operates from one care room with sanitary facilities in a community building.

## Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and employs two staff members. On the day of inspection, the person in charge and one staff member 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 and safety. 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)

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

### Regulation 26 Fire Safety

The scope of the inspection included the morning sessional 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff member 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) The files of two adults were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b) Four written and validated references were available in relation to the two adults present.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for two staff. 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) Not applicable as Police vetting was not required, as no adults had lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the two adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least 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 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(2) On the day of inspection, there were two adults working with 16 children, aged 2 years 8 months to 4 years old, in the morning up to 11.30am, with ratios being maintained.

## 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 and an inviting play space to enable children to explore their environment, with play materials easily accessible in clearly labelled containers.
- The range of play materials and equipment was suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room nurturing children’s independence, ability to make decisions, enabling exploration and develop their play opportunities.
- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children. There were sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room.
- Cosy areas with cushions and soft rugs for rest and relaxation were present.

## 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:

- Access to the service via a door which operates on a buzzer system preventing unauthorised access into the service and unauthorised exit from the service.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.
- The pre-school children were supervised at all times during the session.
- Attendance records were present, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 20.1°C at 10.05am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18-22°C.

## Infection Control:

- The premises and equipment were visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Handwashing was completed before meals and after toilet visits.
- Children’s snacks and lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated on arrival to the service to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.

## 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’.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Renewal of Garda Vetting has been completed for the staff member in question. The service have implemented a monthly check on all garda vetting renewal dates to ensure that renewals are applied for in time going forward. Reminders have also been set up in calendars for when renewals are due.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Renewed Garda vetting and Garda vetting renewal checklist.

## Summary Comment

1. Under Regulation 23, the non-compliance outlined above 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

(1) The service provided evidence that two adults trained in First Aid Response were 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 firefighting 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 38-week sessional service was carried out in the service was 17 June 2024.  
(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of smoke alarms in the premises were available for review on the day of inspection. The record showed that the smoke alarms were last serviced on 29 March 2024. The record of the number, type and maintenance of Fire Extinguishers was submitted by the registered provider which demonstrated the fire extinguishers were serviced on 26 September 2024.

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in the care room of the service.