

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL228
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Cois Bá
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Mid-Sutton Community Centre, Bayside Boulevard North, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D13 X8H4
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sarah Grae
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Hosford
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Naíonra Cois Bá is a private sessional service through the medium of Irish which operates from 9:15am to 12:45pm Monday to Friday and caters for children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

The service is located in an urban area of Dublin city and operates from one care room in a multi use community centre.

### Staffing

The service is operated by the registered provider who works directly with the children and has an emergency contact person available should they require assistance.

### 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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b),(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4),
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(3)(8)(c),
- Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child,
- Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and development of Child (1)(a),

- Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
- Regulation 25 First Aid and

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

*(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,*

*(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 staff files of the registered provider and the emergency contact person were reviewed.

(a) Not applicable as no references were from a past employer.

(b) Two validated written references were available for the registered provider from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and the 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) International police vetting was not required for the registered provider or the emergency contact person as documentary evidence available demonstrated that neither adult had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available the registered provider held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

- Two validated written references were not available for the emergency contact person from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

In response the registered provider has stated that the missing reference was obtained, and a second reference was acquired. Going forward the service will ensure that all documentation is up to date and available.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) Two validated written references.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified.

### 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) The registered provider was working directly with 11 children aged between 2-6 years of age during the operation of the session.

(3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times as the registered provider was working directly with 11 children.

(8)(c) The registered provider ensured that an adult familiar with the service was available to offer assistance in the event that it was 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) to (i) On review of the documentation relating to a sample of 11 children's files within the service, the required information and detail was available and complete.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs:

Snack time was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion with the children given time to enjoy their food and converse with their friends. The registered provider was available to assist the children and offer additional food if requested. Children had drinks of water at snack time and throughout the session.

The children were encouraged to use the toilet independently with supervision available to ensure that hand hygiene was completed afterwards.

A rest area off the main care room consisting of soft matting, dimmed lighting, colourful cushions and books were available should a child require a break from activities or decide to sit and read a book from the library.

#### Supporting Relationships:

The registered provider spoke with the children in a calm manner with clear guidance and direction given prior to moving from activities or assisting the children with taking turns and sharing.

The registered provider was observed to support children to interact positively with other children by diffusing minor disagreements between children appropriately and modelling social skills.

The children appeared confident and independent in their environment and participated with the activities and the service routine in a cooperative and collective manner.

Parents and guardians had the opportunity to speak with the registered provider at drop off and collection and discuss their child's day and activities undertaken.

### 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

#### Physical and Material Environment

- The care room was bright and resourced with well-maintained toys and play materials. The children were observed to play with tabletop activities such as jigsaws and magnets, floor play with cars, trucks and planes, drawing and gluing at the arts and crafts table, sand play with spades and cups, playing house in the home area with pots, pans, play food, cups, sauces and jugs and creating areas with houses, shells, trees and people.

- All materials and equipment in the care room was appropriate to the age and development of the child. The furniture provided in the room was low level and age appropriate for the children attending with equipment and play materials accessible.

### 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 door to the community centre was supervised by a centre employee to prevent unauthorised access to the centre or children exiting unsupervised. Toys and play equipment in use by children on the day of inspection were observed to be safe and in good working order. Cleaning products, hazardous materials, electric flexes and blind cords were stored securely out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

Suitable sanitary facilities to include warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available to the children to ensure effective hand hygiene was carried out before meals and after toilet use. Bins were available for the disposal of used paper tissues. Tables were cleaned before and after snack and messy play activities. The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean condition with daily cleaning schedules available and completed. Warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and foot pedal operated bins available to facilitate appropriate hand hygiene practices. Children's perishable food items such as cheese, yogurts and meats were refrigerated on arrival to the service. Each child was provided with a table mat at snack time with the children taking responsibility for cleaning them before use.

##### Fire Safety:

The emergency fire exit located in the care room was clearly identifiable and kept clear throughout the session.

## 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 Responder (FAR) certification was available to the children on the day of inspection with an expiry date of 8 August 2026.

(2)

(a) and (b) A first aid box was suitably equipped, accessible and available to the adult caring for the children attending the service.