

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY045
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tir na nOg
-------------------------	------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 5, Enterprise Centre, Clonberne, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	H53 CT93
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Noreena Miskell
-------------------------------------	-----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
----------------------	---------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	22/02/2024
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	41	PM	23
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
---	---

<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Kelly.
----------------------------------	----------

<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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

This full day care service is located in a rural setting in north, Co Galway. A childcare service is provided to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00am and 6:00pm hours. A school age service is also provided. It is a purpose-built childcare service in an enterprise centre in Clonberne village, Co Galway. It comprises of 3 playrooms and 1 dedicated sleep room. It also an outdoor play area at the side/rear of the building.

### Staffing

There were 9 adults present on the day of inspection and of these 8 were working directly with the children which included the registered provider.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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, deputy person in charge, 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) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider and the deputy person in charge were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 10 members of staff working in the service, which included the registered provider and a kitchen staff member. All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 19 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There was 1 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 2 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 9 adult working directly with children who had obtained at least an 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.*

*(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.*

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

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times, 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the morning of first day of inspection, there were 41 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 23 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

At 11.30 am on the first day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2) Baby/Toddler room (up to 28 months) there were 2 adults caring for 8 infants/babies.

Junior Preschool room (2 .5 year to 3 years) there were 3 adults caring for 17 children.

Senior Preschool room ( 3 years plus), there were 2 adults caring for 16 children.

(8)(a) The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service.

### 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

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the service collaborates with parents to support healthy eating within the service. Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The service had a cook and the home cooked meals on the days of inspection appeared appetising and healthy. The dinner on the day consisted of mince, vegetables and potatoes. The younger children were encouraged by the staff member to self-feed and the staff sat nearby and offered assistance when required. The children were not rushed and when they were finished, they had their hands and faces cleaned and could move around the room and play and wait until all of the children were finished. The older children were observed bringing their plates after they had finished their lunches and leaving them on a tray, they went straight to the hand washing sink without any prompts from the staff members.
- Older children could access the toilets on their own or they asked the staff member for assistance.
- The children had access to low level hand washing sinks in the children's sanitary areas and in the playrooms so the children could wash their hands without adult assistance. Soap, paper towels and tissues were also available. This was observed on the day when children were seen going to the hand washing sink prior to mealtime and also after meal time .
- Soft seating was available in all of the playroom; children were observed using these areas after snacks times while were waiting for the rest of the children to finish lunch and on other occasions during the inspection. All of the areas were inviting and had activities suitable for the children to rest and relax.
- All of the children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area on numerous occasions throughout the day.
- The children under 2 years of age were put down to sleep in the cot room, on the day of inspection 4 children were put down to sleep in standard cots in this room. A staff member physically checked the children every 10 minutes and recorded the temperature of the room, colour and position of the child as they slept.

- The children aged over 2 years slept on stackable beds in a playroom and also in the cot room. This room had stackable beds, each child had an allocated bed with sheets and a small blanket. A staff member stayed in the room with the children as they slept.

**Supporting relationships :**

- The atmosphere between the children and the adults was calm and unhurried throughout the inspection.
- Staff provided parents with the opportunity to share information about the children’s experiences, a daily record was sent home each day for all the children, and this was done via an online software application. The parent had instant access to information in relation to the activities of the children, such as what they ate and when they slept or rested.
- Adults sat at the tables and on the floor with the children when helping with jigsaws and various other play activities. The staff encouraged the children to take on leadership roles within their group, each day different children were appointed “leader” and they were given tasks to complete such as handing out the lunch boxes/bags and helping with arts and craft activities.