

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY175
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Name of Service:	Naionra Cill Allachtain
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Address of Service:	Community Centre, Killalaghton, Killoran, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H53 KF22
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Horkan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F.Nic Dhonnacha
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

This community preschool Naíonra Cill Allachtain provides an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) preschool care programme and sessional care programme from 09.00 to 12.00, from Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. The preschool caters for children between 2 years 8 months and 6 years of age. The preschool operates in the community hall in Killalaghton, in the east of county Galway. There are 2 playrooms, namely Playroom 1 and Playroom 2. On the day of inspection, only Playroom 1 was operating. A quiet rest area is available for the children to rest, relax or opt out of an activity if they chose to. The preschool children have access to a designated secure outdoor play area to the side of the premises. Additionally, the children under supervision have access to the community indoor hall during bad weather.

Staffing

The registered provider is the chairperson on the board of management. The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a designated person in charge and a named deputy. There are a total of 3 staff currently working in the premises. Three staff hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework. One of the 3 staff members is employed under the access and inclusion model of care. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

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. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child.

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 *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.

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was the chairperson on the board of management and was supernumerary. There was a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge who was available when required in the preschool service.

(b) The designated person in charge and deputy person in charge were available during the inspection.

(2) Four staff files were available in respect of the registered provider and the 3 adults working in the service. The findings included the following:

- (a) Five written and validated references from past employers in respect of the adults working in the service were available.
- (b) Three written and validated references from a source other than a past employer were available on file in respect of the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years.
- (d) Not applicable, international police vetting was not required for the adults working in the service as they had not lived in another state for a period longer than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 6 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
- (6)(A) One of the 4 adults was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model of Care and was providing additional support.

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)-*
 - (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,*

Compliance Information

- (1) During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (3) The minimum ratios of adults supervising children was maintained on the day of inspection. On the 11/11/2025 3 adults supervised 14 children during the sessional programme.
- (8)(a) During the inspection more than 2 adults were available in the service at all times.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) to (i) The service held records for the 14 children enrolled in the service. The records included the required particulars outlined from (a) to (i).

(3)(a)(b)(c) The children's registration forms were available for review in the service by the relevant people outlined under (a)(b)(c).

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

(1)(a)

Basic Needs of Children:

- The adults treated the children in a respectful and caring manner. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions with the children. The adults praised and encouraged the children, conversed with the children at their level, used soft tones of voice, responded promptly to their cues for assistance and comfort. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's capabilities, interests and preferences.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings, at mealtime and whilst using the toilet.
- The children had the freedom to choose which area of interest they wished to play in. They were observed building blocks, mark making on a white board, playing with dolls and playing with magnetic boards and pens. One child was sitting on the soft mat threading.
- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and prompted to wipe their noses at appropriate intervals.
- The children sat together at tables in low-level chairs for mealtimes. Lunches were provided by the parents/guardians. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion. The children's water bottles were available on a tray on a low shelf throughout the day.
- One child wore a nappy. The needs of the child were attended to as required in a respectful manner providing privacy and dignity at all times.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The main naionra playroom was bright and well-resourced and was laid out to enable the children to freely access the equipment and materials. The playroom was laid out and designed with challenging and interesting areas for children to play and learn. The room was resourced with a variety of activity areas to ensure that children were provided with choice and options which supported individual and group play and

emerging interests. Children were observed to be fully engaged in play and made smooth transitions between the activity areas.

- The walls of the playroom were decorated with numerical and alphabetical learning aids and the children's individual artwork, family and birthday sections, days of the week, a little helper system, who's here today visual display, class rules visual display along with many prompts for washing hands and visual aids to demonstrate the class routines.
- The playroom was appropriately resourced with a home corner, art and crafts area, construction area, pretend doll play area, a cosy soft matted area where the children could rest/relax or take time away from activities. Reading materials were used by the children to rest and relax.
- Low level shelving units were accessible to the children with a range of manipulative, sensory, imaginative and constructive toys and learning materials for the age and level of development of the children.

Outdoor Play Area

- The outdoor play area was enclosed with fencing walls and had secure gates. The ground surface had a mixture of grass and black square impact absorbing slabs. The outdoor play area accommodated a mud kitchen, activity centre, planting boxes, a wooden playhouse, basketball hoop and balls, a bird table, inset tyres, mounted black boards to the fence and a sand box. The area had visual colourful murals on the wall with bright colours, animals, birds, trees and the sun. A storage unit was available with extra toys, cars, bikes and play materials.

The Indoor Hall Area.

- This room is used during bad weather conditions. The children had the opportunity to play in the hall on the day of inspection. The room had a variety of equipment and play materials for example, a climbing obstacle course, basket balls, an activity centre with steps up, soft balls, tunnels, tents building blocks and much more.

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:

- A secure system was in place at the main entrance door to the playroom to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the service.
- The outdoor play area to the side of the service was secured with fencing, walls and gates to protect the children within.
- All toys and play equipment were maintained in good condition.
- The two entry and exit doors in the indoor hall were secure and a risk assessment was available.
- Disabled access entry via wheelchair was available through the main hall entrance door.
- The water temperature in the wash hand basin in the playroom, nappy changing area and sanitary area was within normal limits not exceeding 43°C.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins. A nappy changing area was available in an alternative sanitary area.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after messy play activities, using the toilet and before mealtime.
- The children's perishable food items were stored in the refrigerators in the care rooms.
- Cleaning products were inaccessible and out of reach of the preschool children.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered in the service during the inspection.
- The adults demonstrated an awareness of the service's administration of medication policy and procedure.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit routes and passageways were clear from obstruction in the service.
- The fire exit routes and fire assembly points were readily identified with signage and known to the adults.

Outings:

- An outing was not conducted on the day of inspection.

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) Two adults working directly with the children held a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

It was acknowledged that 1 adult working in the service was completing a paediatric first aid course.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the main playroom.

(b) The first aid box was available in the service for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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) A record was available to demonstrate a fire drill was carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 4/11/2025.

(b) Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment took place on the 27/8/ 2025.

Up to date records of the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarm system were available. The most recent service of the smoke alarms took place on the 27/08/2025.

(4) Fire action notices were displayed in the service demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance was available for a sessional service accommodating up to a maximum 22 preschool children.