

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015GY193

**Name of Service:** Naíonra Tigh na Sí

**Address of Service:** Gaelscoil Riabhach, Cois Móna, Baile Locha Riach, Co.na Gaillimhe

**Email Address:** tighnasi@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mr Diarmaid Walsh

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Sessional</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Drop-In</b>	
	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** Proposed change from a sessional 3 to 3.5hour service to a part-time service up to 5 hours.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 22

**Registered change:** Part Time service

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	9	1	0	2	0	2	1
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**Inspection undertaken by:** F. Nic Dhonnacha

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway

### Rationale for Inspection:

<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>	Change in Service Type: Sessional to Part-Time Change in Hours of Operation: 9.00am - 12.00pm to 09.00am -13.30pm
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**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Part-Time service 09.00am -13.30pm
<b>Date of Registration</b>	22/11/2021

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Naíonra Tí na Sí is located in Gaelscoil Riabhach National School in Loughrea, east of county Galway. The preschool currently offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), sessional care from 9.00hrs to 12.00hrs and proposes to offer a part-time care programme from 9.00hrs to 13.30hrs, Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. The service proposes to provide a child centred play based preschool curriculum focusing on emerging interests through the medium of Irish.
<b>Premises</b>	The proposed part-time preschool is located in Gaelscoil Riabhach. The service consists of 2 playrooms namely a naíonra and seomra iar aire. The naíonra playroom proposes to operate the part time service. The second playroom seomra iar aire is solely for the school aged programme from 13.30hrs to 18.00hrs. A quiet rest area with soft seating and matting is available for the children to relax or opt out of an activity if they chose to. The service proposes to use 12 stackable beds to give the part-time children opportunity to sleep. The service proposes to use the designated secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for children's play exploration and fresh air.
<b>Staffing</b>	The proposed registered provider will be supernumerary and not in direct contact with the children. The proposed designated person in charge / childcare manager is in the service each day. It is proposed that 4 staff will be working directly with the children. All 4 staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
<b>Methodology</b>	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes: Governance, and Safety.  The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	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.

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) The requirement has been met. The service has a proposed person in charge and a proposed named deputy.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

**Requirement met:**

(1) It is proposed the minimum ratio of adults to children will be maintained. It is proposed 4 staff will be working in the preschool.

(8)(b) Not applicable, this service is not a child-minding service.

(c) Not applicable, this service does not intend to operate single-handedly. It proposes that 4 staff will work in the service which will operate as a part-time preschool. Additionally, there is a named person within close distance of the service and available to attend the service in the event of an emergency.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

**Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play**

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure

*outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that –*

*(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*

*(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*

*(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*

*(5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate and suitable facilities will be offered for play in the proposed playroom and in the outdoor play area.</li> <li>• The proposed playroom was comfortable, clean, visually pleasing, and inviting and had a laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and staff in the service.</li> <li>• The proposed playroom had various interest areas. Equipment, toys and materials were at children's eye level in order for them to be fully accessible to the children, visually and physically.</li> </ul> <p>Items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a cosy corner (with 2 child size couches, matting and a library with a selection of books),</li> <li>– a home corner (with a wooden kitchen, oven, microwave, tea pots, crockery and utensils),</li> <li>– an arts and crafts area- (with paints, trays, markers, crayons, coloured paper, a blackboard),</li> <li>– musical instruments,</li> <li>– a construction area (with cars, trucks, ships and garage stations)</li> <li>– building blocks, jigsaws, puzzles and games,</li> <li>– a playhouse / shop with small world items, real life shop items, cash registers,</li> <li>– cots, buggies and dolls,</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Additionally, there were threading materials, insets, shapes, boxes, letters, pins, the alphabet, beads, shells, scoops, farm animals, mirrors, fairies, and connectors.</li> </ul> <p>(b) Adequate facilities for rest and sleep are proposed to be provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending. The playroom currently had a wipeable soft seating area to allow children rest and relax when required. In addition, there were 12 stackable beds available for part time children’s sleep provision.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed registered provider has ensured that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor play area was available to the pre-school children at the back of the preschool premises.</li> <li>• The outdoor area had a combination of a tarmacadam, impact absorbing and artificial grass surfaces with concrete paths. The area was surrounded by metal fencing and a gate.</li> <li>• Play equipment and materials including a large playhouse, see saws, a mud kitchen with utensils and crockery, was available.</li> <li>• The proposed designated person in charge has advised that extra outdoor play equipment and materials including bicycles, tricycles, helmets, balls, child size toy wheelbarrows and tools were stored in a designated storage bunker on the premises until required.</li> </ul> <p>(3)(a) The proposed designated person in charge advised that children would have access to the outdoor play area daily. The outdoor space was observed to be suitable, secure and no safety hazards were noted on the day of Inspection.</p> <p>(b) Facilities for outdoor play were provided on site.</p> <p>(4) A suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the proposed part-time day care service will have access on a daily basis will be provided on the premises.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable, as the proposed preschool will operate as a part-time care service.</p>
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Part V- Care of Child in Preschool services

**Regulation 22- Food and Drink**

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

**Requirement met:**

- The requirement has been met- The designated person in charge proposes to offer a second meal for the children attending the service on a part-time basis.
- Parents / guardians will be notified to provide a 2nd meal for the children who will attend the part-time service.
- The service had a healthy eating policy.
- The proposed part-time service plans to store perishable items from the children's lunch boxes/ bags in the service fridge.
- The preschool service proposes to have a water station available where children can self-serve when required. Additionally, the preschool service will offer milk and water at snack / mealtimes when required.

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.*

**Requirement Met:**

**GENERAL SAFETY:**

- The external door has a security system to prevent the general public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.
- Emergency doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- The roller blinds were secured and fastened therefore posing no potential risk to preschool children.
- In the outdoor play area, there were no pits or ponds to cause any risk or hazard to preschool children.
- All flexes, cables and cords were secure and thereby inaccessible to the children.
- Visibility strips were fitted to the glass door of the playroom and entrance door.
- Storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to prevent preschool children having potential access to chemicals or cleaning agents.
- The water supply in the children's sanitary area was thermostatically controlled.
- A risk assessment system of checking toys and equipment was in place i.e., that they weren't broken, and were maintained, in a good state of repair.
- The service has a health and safety policy which included a daily risk assessment.
- Proposed parents and guardians had been advised of the service's drop off and collection policy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The person in charge advised that daily attendance records for the start and finishing time for all proposed children attending the playroom will be maintained.</li> </ul> <p><b>INFECTION CONTROL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the playroom, sanitary areas and outdoor play area.</li> <li>Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.</li> <li>Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43°C.</li> <li>A supply of hand sanitiser was available at various stations throughout the building.</li> <li>There was a fridge for the storage of perishable items from children’s lunch boxes for their snack/ mealtimes.</li> <li>A designated isolation area was available in the event that an adult or a child attending the service should develop Covid-19.</li> <li>Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, aprons and gloves were available.</li> </ul> <p><b>SAFE SLEEP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was child size soft seating in the form of wipeable couches, cushions and matting in a designated area where children could rest or relax if they so choose.</li> <li>It is proposed children requiring sleep will be offered a designated low level stackable bed.</li> <li>Each child will have their own individual bed linen (sheet, pillow and blanket) these items will be stored in named individual storage boxes.</li> </ul>
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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Three of the proposed staff had a first aid for children qualification.</li> <li>(2) (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and was stored in an easily accessible position on the shelf in the playroom.</li> </ul>
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### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.
	(1)(a) Arrangements are in place to record fire drills. The last fire drill was dated 20/10/2021.
	(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and fire alarm and detection system in the service was dated 24/08/2021.
	(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the notice board at the entrance to the playroom.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.
	There was a copy of the insurance available for sessional, part-time and school age service with an expiry date 28/02/2022.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—
- (a) of sound and stable structure,
  - (b) safe and secure,
  - (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
  - (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
  - (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met
	(a) - From a visual inspection the premises was of sound and stable structure.
	(b) - The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure.
	- There was a secure system at the main entrance door into the service.
	(c) - There was a combination of natural and artificial lighting in the playroom from the 8 windows and glass door and the artificial covered long ceiling lights in the playroom.
	- The playroom was well ventilated by means of openable windows and doors.

- The gas central heating was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the playroom stays within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.
- The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature and no greater than 43°C.
- (d) - The premises play, and work equipment were clean and in good repair.
- Cleaning equipment was safely stored away in secure cupboards and inaccessible to the preschool children. There were proposed cleaning schedules presented for the sessional, part time and school age service.
- (e) - Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.
- There were 2 designated toilets for the preschool children adjacent to the playroom and there was 1 separate designated staff toilet and wash hand basin for use by staff in the school.
- There were 2 wash hand basins in the sanitary area with thermostatically controlled warm water available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43. °C.
- An additional wash hand basin was available for children’s use in the playroom.
- Foot pedal bins were provided in the sanitary areas and playroom.
- There were no nappy changing facilities available as it is intended that all children attending the service will be toilet trained.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

**Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements**

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
  - (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
  - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

- (1)
  - The proposed registered provider of the proposed part-time preschool service ensured that a minimum of 2.3 square metres of clear floor space was available for each child attending the playroom.
  - The proposed part- time / naíonra playroom measured 63.687 square meters.
  - Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed playroom / classroom for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The designated person in charge had ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for preschool children.
- (3) Not applicable as the service proposes to offer a part-time service.
- (4)(a) The required floor space of (1.818 square meters) is applied for the duration of a sessional service in a part time /full day care service.
  - (b) The required floor space of 2.3sq. meters is applied for the duration of a part-time / full time service.
- (5) Not applicable as this service is proposing to operate as a part-time service.