

Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Uimhir Aitheantais TUSLA:	TU2015GY223
Ainm na Seirbhíse:	Naíonra Iognáid
Seoladh na Seirbhíse:	Scoil Iognáid, Bóithrín na Sliogán, Gaillimh, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Eirchód:	H91 E364
Ainm an tSoláthraí Chláraithe:	Gwen Uí Riain
Cineál na Seirbhíse	Curam Lae Iomlán, Páirt aimseartha, seisiúnach
Dáta na Cigireachta:	9ú Meitheamh 2023
Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:	AM 39 PM 9
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla - An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, Cigireacht Luathbhlianta, An Stiúrthóireacht um Dhearbhú Cáilíochta, Foirgneamh Cliniciúil & Riaracháin, Bloc A- (An Chéad Chonair Urlár-Glas), Páirc Mhuirlinne, Co.na Gaillimhe.
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Nic Dhonnacha
Title:	Cigire na Luathbhlianta

Údarás chun cigireacht a dhéanamh

Déanann Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla cigireacht ar Sheirbhísí Luathbhlianta faoi Alt 58(J) den Acht um Chúram Leanaí, 1991 (arna chur isteach le hAlt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013).

Coinníollacha, má bhaineann le hábhar	Neamh bhainteach
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Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Cur síos ar an tseirbhís

Tá Naíonra Iognáid lonnaithe i Scoil Iognáid, scoil náisiúnta in iarthiar cathair na Gaillimhe. Cuireann an tseirbhís luathbhlianta Cúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige (ECCE) agus clár cúraim seisiúnach ar fáil ó 9.00 uair go 12.00 uair, seirbhís pháirtaimseartha ó 9.00 uair go 13.30 uair, agus seirbhís cúraim lae iomlán go dtí 16.30 uair ó Luan go hAoine. Cuirtear seirbhís dhá-theangach ar fáil trí mheán an Bhéarla agus na Gaeilge. Tá dhá sheomra súgartha sa tseirbhís, mar atá ainmnithe, Seomra Gwen agus Seomra Hannah atá in aonad réamhdhéanta, ar chúl na scoile. Tá limistéar súgartha atá slán amuigh faoin aer le limistéar foscúil uile-aimsire, ar thaobh an áitribh agus limistéar féir ar chúl na scoile. Ina theannta sin, bíonn teacht ag na páistí ar halla na scoile náisiúnta ag amanna faoi leith agus ar cheantair roinnte lasmuigh. Freastalaíonn an tseirbhís luathbhlianta ar leanaí idir 2 bhliain agus 8 mí agus 6 bliana d'aois. Cuirtear curaclam réamhscoile atá bunaithe ar shúgradh agus mhodhanna Montessori ar fáil agus a dhíríonn ar spéiseanna atá ag teacht chun cinn sna páistí.

Soláthar foirne

Is í an soláthraí cláraithe an duine ainmnithe atá i gceannas agus oibríonn sí san áitreabh, gach lá. Tá ionadaí ainmnithe ann, nuair is gá. Tá 4 bhall foirne agus duine fásta amháin ann a chuireann tacaíocht ar fáil faoin tsamhail rochtana agus chuimsithe. Tá Cáilíocht agus Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann (QQI) ag 4 bhall foirne ag Leibhéal 5 ar a laghad i, Cúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige. Tá fianaise dhoiciméadach ag an bhfoireann ar fad ar oiliúint agus oideachas leanúnach.

Modheolaíocht

Is í Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla, rialtóir reachtúil neamhspleách ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta in Éirinn. Sainmhínítear i Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 dualgas an tsoláthraí chláráithe sábháilteacht agus folláine leanaí a chinntiú agus cloí leis na riachtanais seo. Tugann an tAcht seo údarás do Tusla measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh leis na rialacháin. Is é is aidhm le rialáil maidir le seirbhísí óige ná a chinntiú go seastar le cúram, sábháilteacht, agus folláine na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí seo.

Pleanáiltear cigireachtaí ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta bunaithe ar na pointí seo a leanas:

- Stair chigireachta na seirbhíse
- Eolas ar bith a fhaightear maidir leis an tseirbhís
- Tá torthaí na cigireachta bunaithe ar:
- Eolas a fhaightear trí dhoiciméid a imscrúdú
- Breathnú díreach
- Plé le baill foirne ábhartha

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Ba chigireacht fógartha é seo, agus díriodh ar rialachas, sláinte, folláine agus forbairt an linbh agus sábháilteacht lena linn. Féadfaidh cigireachtaí díriú ar réimsí eile chomh maith, de réir mar is gá.

Dhírigh an chigireacht ar scrúdú ar chomhlíonadh faoi rialacháin 9, 11 agus 19 (1) (a).

Leagtar amach torthaí na cigireachta sa tuarascáil maidir leis an gcigireacht a eisítear mar dhréacht-tuarascáil ar dtús chuig an tseirbhís, agus bíonn deis ag an tseirbhís freagra a thabhairt ar thorthaí ar bith a luaitear inti. I gcás go sainaithnítear nach bhfuil ceanglais reachtúla á gcomhlíonadh, ní mór don soláthraí cláraithe léiriú a thabhairt ar an mbealach a réitíodh an neamhchomhlíonadh agus mar a chuirfear cosc ar an neamhchomhlíonadh amach anseo. Úsáidfean an plean um Ghníomh Ceartaitheach agus Gníomh Coiscitheach (CAPA) chun bonn eolais a chur le cinntí maidir le comhlíonadh le ceanglais rialála. I gcás nach n-éiríonn leis an soláthraí cláraithe na ceanglais reachtúla a chomhlíonadh, féadfar próiseas géaraithe a thosú.

Forchoimeádann an Chigireacht an ceart chun eagarthóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagraí a fhaightear ar chúiseanna éagsúla lena n-áirítear soiléireacht; iomláine; agus chun próisis riaracháin agus dlíthiúla a chomhlíonadh.

Is í an Chigireacht a thiomsaíonn ábhar na tuarascála.

Buíochas

Is mian leis an gCigirí buíochas a ghabháil leis an soláthraí cláraithe, leis an bhfoireann agus leis na leanaí a bhí i láthair ar lá na cigireachta as a gcomhoibriú ar fad.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe-

(a) go mbeidh sa tseirbhís duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe agus duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú a bheidh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá,

(b) go mbeidh an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe nó an duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (a) san áitreabh gach tráth le linn na tréimhse ina mbeidh an tseirbhís réamhscoile á seoladh, agus

(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe gur duine oiriúnach inniúil gach fostaí, gach oibrí nach n-íoctar agus gach conraitheoir, agus cineál na riachtanas a bhíonn ar leanaí á chur san áireamh, lena n-áirítear trí na nithe seo a leanas a dhéanamh–

(a) breithniú ar theistiméireacht ó fhostóirí an duine san am a caitheadh, más ann, agus go háirithe ar theistiméireacht ón bhfostóir is déanaí, más ann,

(b) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhoinsí iontaoifa i gcás duine nach raibh aon fhostóirí air nó uirthi san am a caitheadh,

(c) breithniú ar an nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin a fuarthas ó Bhiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána de réir Acht 2012 i leith an duine, agus

(d) a chinntiú, a mhéid is indéanta, go soláthróidh duine, i gcás go raibh cónaí ar an duine i stát seachas an Stát ar feadh tréimhse ab fhaide ná 6 mhí as a chéile, grinnfhiosrúchán ag póilíní ó na húdaráis phóilíneachta sa stát sin.

(4) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (2) agus faoi réir mhíreanna (5) agus (6), go sealbhaíonn gach fostaí a bhíonn ag obair go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís, mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-Óige ar Leibhéal 5 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasfaidh an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach léi sin, ar a laghad.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

(1) (a) Bhí duine ainmnithe i gceannas agus bhí duine ainmnithe ar fáil le ionadú sa tseirbhís nuair atá gá.

(b) Bhí an duine a bhí i gceannas ar an áitreabh nuair a tháinig an cigire luathbhlianta agus d'fhan sí ar an láthair fad na cigireachta. Thug uainchláir foirne le fios go raibh an duine ainmnithe a bhí i gceannas nó an duine ainmnithe a bhíonn ag ionadú ar fáil, ar an áitreabh, i gcónaí nuair a bhíonn na páistí réamhscoile i láthair.

- (2) Déanadh athbhreithniú ar gach comhad foirne.
- (a)&(b) Bhí deich dtagairt bhailíochtaíthe scríofa ar fáil ar chomhad ó iarfhostóir nó ó fhoirse seachas an fhóistóir deireadh.
- (c) Bhí nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána ar fáil maidir leis an gcúigear ball foirne.
- (d) Bhí grinnfhiosrúchán na bpóilíní ar fáil ar chomhad do bheirt bhall foirne a bhí ina gcónaí lasmuigh den dlínse, ar feadh tréimhse níos faide ná 6 mhí, agus é os cionn 18 mbliana d'aois.
- (4) Bhí dámhachtain Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann (QQI) ag cheathrar ball foirne ag Leibhéal 5 ar a laghad, i gCúram Luath-Óige Oideachais. Bhí cóipeanna de cháilíochtaí ar chomhad don chúigear ball foirne.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

Rialachán 11 - Leibhéal Foirne

- (1) *Faoi réir an Rialacháin seo, cinnteoidh soláthraí cláráithe go mbeidh líon leordhóthanach daoine fásta ann i gcónaí a oibríonn go díreach leis na leanaí atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile.*
- (2) *Faoi réir mhíreanna (4) agus (5), cinnteoidh soláthraí cláráithe seirbhíse cúraim lae iomlán nó seirbhíse cúraim lae pháirtaimseartha go ndéanfar, gach tráth, an cóimheas íosta idir aosaigh agus leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (3) de Chuid 1 de Sceideal 6 os coinne uimhir thagartha áirithe a shonraítear i gcolún (1) den Chuid sin i leith raon aoise na leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (2) den Sceideal sin ag an uimhir thagartha sin sásta.*
- (8) *Gan dochar do mhíreanna (2) go (7)-*
- (a) *cinnteoidh soláthraí cláráithe seirbhíse réamhscoile seachas seirbhís feighlíochta leanaí nó seirbhís réamhscoile seisiúnach go bhfuil 2 aosach ar a laghad san áitreabh i gcónaí.*

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

- (1) I gcónaí le linn thréimhse an iniúchta, chinntigh an duine a bhí i gceannas go raibh líon leordhóthanach foirne ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí.
- (2) Léirigh fianaise dhoiciméadach i bhfoirm taifead tinrimh agus uainchláir foirne gur cloíodh le cóimheasa leanaí fásta.
- Maidin na cigireachta, bhí 39 páiste réamhscoile idir 3 agus 5 bliana d'aois.
- Suas go dtí 13.00 uair, bhí 14 leanbh réamhscoile ag freastal ar chlár páirtaimseartha na seirbhísí agus 9 gcinn don chlár lae iomlán.

Bhí triúr ball foirne cúram leanaí ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí agus duine fásta amháin a bhí ag cur tacaíochta ar fáil faoin tsamhail rochtana agus chuimsithe. Chabhraigh an soláthraí cláraithe le feidhm riaracháin na cigireachta.

(8)(a) Chinntigh an soláthraí cláraithe go raibh beirt bhall foirne ar an áitreabh i gcónaí fad is a bhí an réamhscoil ag feidhmiú.

Cuid IV – Faisnéis agus Taifid

Rialachán 18 – Cóip den Acht, etc.

Cinnteadh soláthraí cláraithe go gcoinneofar san áitreabh cóip de Chuid VIIA (a cuireadh isteach le halt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013 (Uimh. 40 de 2013)) den Acht agus de na Rialacháin seo agus beidh na cóipeanna a dúradh ar fáil lena n-íniúchadh san áitreabh—

(a) ag tuismitheoir nó caomhnóir linbh a fheastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís nó a bheartaíonn freastal ar an tseirbhís,

(b) ag fostaí, ag oibrí nach n-íoctar nó ag conraitheoir, agus

(c) ag duine údaráithe.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

Bhí cóip de Chuid VIIA (a cuireadh isteach le halt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013 (Uimh. 40 de 2013)) den Acht agus de na Rialacháin seo ar fáil ar clár na bhfógraí agus ar fáil do thuismitheoirí, caomhnóirí, fostaíthe, oibríthe gan phá, conraitheoirí agus daoine údaráithe.

Cuid V - Cúram Linbh i Seirbhís Réamhscoile

Rialachán 19 - Sláinte, leas agus forbairt linbh

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, le linn dó nó di a bheith ag soláthar seirbhís réamhscoile—

(a) go ndéanfar foghlaim, forbairt agus leas gach linbh a urasú laistigh de shaol laethúil na seirbhíse réamhscoile trí na gníomhaíochtaí cuí, an idirghníomhaíocht chuí, na hábhair chuí agus an trealamh cuí a sholáthar, ag féachaint d'aois agus do chéim forbartha an linbh, agus

(b) go mbeidh cleachtais chúraim chuí oiriúnacha ar bun sa tseirbhís réamhscoile, ag féachaint don líon leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís agus do chineál a riachtanas.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

Riachtanais Bhunúsacha

- Cuireadh bia sláintiúil chun cinn laistigh den tseirbhís agus bhí polasaí bia sláintiúil ar fáil ach é a iarraidh. Chuir tuismitheoirí agus caomhnóirí sneaiceanna agus lón cothaitheach sláintiúil ar fáil do na leanaí seisiúnacha agus páirtaimseartha sa tseirbhís. Tugadh dhá ghrúpa bia faoi deara i ngach sneaic/ lón a cuireadh ar fáil.
- Chuir an réamhscoil an príomhbhéile ar fáil agus bhí korma sicín agus rís ann. Is éard a bhí sna sneaiceanna agus béile tráthnóna ná cáis, crackers, le torthaí measctha (piorraí, oráistí, úlla) le bainne nó uisce le n-ól.
- Léirigh fianaise dhoiciméadach gur spreagadh na páistí chun triail a bhaint as blasanna bia, uigeachtaí, dathanna agus mar sin de.
- Bhí an t-atmaisféar le linn am béilí shuaimhneach, le idirghníomhú sóisialta taitneamhach i measc na bpáistí agus na baill foirne.
- Spreag agus thacaigh an fhoireann leis na páistí a bheith neamhspleách agus compordach ina dtimpeallacht.
- Bhí theacht neamhsrianta ag na páistí ar an leithreas agus ní raibh orthu fanacht leis an leithreas a úsáid.
- Spreagadh agus tacaíodh le leanaí chun a bheith féinchabhrach agus scileanna sláinteachais phearsanta a fhorbairt.
- D'aithin an fhoireann leideanna aonair na leanaí a bhí tuirseach agus d'fhreagair siad an gá a bhí acu le codladh. Athraíodh Seomra Gwen le haghaidh soláthar codlata, le leapacha cruachta, línéadach aonair, dallóga dúnta, soilse íslithe agus ceol bog séimh ag seinm tar éis lóin do sholáthar codlata na bpáistí.

- Níor chaith aon pháiste clúidín lá na cigireachta. Bhí seomra ainmnithe agus áiseanna athraithe clúidín ar fáil le bosca bruscair séalaithe aerdhíonach, mata glan slán ag athrú le naprúin agus lámhainní curtha ar fáil.
- Bhí deiseanna ag na páistí ar fad bogadh thart gan bhac agus a dtimpeallacht a fhiosrú, laistigh agus lasmuigh. Bhí na páistí taobh amuigh ag spraoi an chuid is mo do lá na cigireachta.

CAIDRIMH TIMPEALL AR LEANAÍ A THACÚ:

- Nuair a labhair an cigire leis an bhfoireann, cuireadh in iúl di gur chuir siad eolas laethúil ar fáil do thuismitheoirí ó bhéal faoi eispéiris a bpáiste sa réamhscoil, lena n-áirítear leithéidí, spéiseanna agus roghanna an linbh agus gníomhaíochtaí súgartha a bhíonn ar siúl. Cuireadh an t-eolas seo ar fáil ag amanna bailiúcháin agus ag tús an lae, trí ghlaonna gutháin agus trí ríomhphost. Bhí straicleabhair próifíle leanaí aonair ag an tseirbhís, a léirigh gníomhaíochtaí agus eispéiris an linbh le fianaise dhoiciméadach / fhótagrafach agus príomhbhreathnuithe do dhaoine fásta.
- Bhreathnaigh sé go raibh suim ag an bhfoireann sna páistí, labhair siad go deas íseal, d'éist siad leo, agus d'fhreagair siad a n-iarratais. D'oibre an fhoireann ar bhealach dearfach leis na páistí e.g., shuigh siad ag leibhéal na bpáistí, choinnigh siad súl mhaith orthu, léirigh siad meas agus tuiscint mhaith ar gach leanbh.
- Rinne daoine fásta iompar leanaí a bhainistiú go leanúnach ar bhealach dearfach, le béim ar athneartú agus spreagadh dearfach san áit.
- Thaispeann an fhoireann caidreamh croíuil leis na páistí, bhí siad ag éisteacht go cúramach lena scéalta agus lena gceisteanna, ag freagairt ceisteanna dóibh le spéis, ag tabhairt moladh agus spreagadh rialta i rith an lae.
- Chuir an fhoireann deiseanna suntasacha ar fáil don pháiste cinneadh a dhéanamh faoina ngníomhaíochtaí súgartha agus faoina n-eispéiris súgartha féin. Bhí na páistí ag plé agus ag foghlaim faoi téamaí na seachtaine seo An Trá/ Turas Scoile/ agus an Samhradh. Bhí siad le feicéal ag dathú agus ag péinteáil pictiúirí den samhraidh. Bhí na páistí agus an fhoireann ag pleanáil a dturas scoile don tseachtain seo chugainn le cheile.
- Léirigh an fhoireann a bhí i láthair cineáltas - bhí siad ag tabhairt aire, tacúil agus dearfach agus iad ag tabhairt aire do na páistí. Rinne siad idirghníomhú leo agus shuigh siad leis na páistí a ghlac páirt i ngach cineál gníomhaíochtaí (i.e.) i súgradh aonar, rólimirt, súgradh cruthaitheach agus ithe le chéile.

TIMPEALLAIGHT FHSICIÚIL & ÁBHARACH:

- Bhí réimse maith bréagán, trealamh agus ábhar súgartha i ngach seomra a bhí oiriúnach ó thaobh forbartha, don aois, don raon agus don líon leanaí a bhí i láthair.
- Bhí na seomraí súgartha geal, ildaite, agus maisithe chun mothú féiniúlachta agus muintearais na bpáistí a léiriú.
- Bhí na hacmhainní éasca le theacht air, léirigh na páistí go raibh taithi acu ar a dtimpeallacht agus iad ag teacht go neamhspleách ar na bréagáin, ar an trealamh agus ar na hábhair a bhí roghnaithe acu chun spraoi leis.
- Cuireadh boird agus cathaoireacha oiriúnacha ar fáil i ngach seomra súgartha do na páistí réamhscoile.
- Stóráladh gach bréagán agus trealamh i gcoimeádáin le taispeáint amhairc chun a gcuid earraí a aithint.
- Bhí réimsí áiteanna spéise éagsúla sna seomraí súgartha Seomra Gwen agus Seomra Hannah ina measc bhí, cúinne baile, amharclann le puipéid, ábhair ealaíne agus ceardaíochta, áiteanna tógála, bábóg, bugaithe, tithe súgartha, bloic thógála, carranna, rianta, trucailí, leabhair, leabharlanna, cláir dhubha, puzail, míreanna mearaí, mataí gníomhaíochta, boird dúlra, uirlisí ceoil, báisíní uisce agus gainimh.
- Ar taispeáint ar na ballaí, bhí áiseanna amhairc, póstaeir, clár amanna agus pleanáil curaclam mar shampla, míonna na bliana, bia sláintiúil, breithlaethanta, an Cháisc, dathanna, cruthanna, pleanáil churaclam agus portráidí teaghlaigh.

ÁIT SÚGARTHA LASMUIGH

- Bhí dromchla féar, in áit amhain, coirt, agus cosáin choincríte sa limistéar súgartha lasmuigh a bhí ar thaobh an áitreabh agus ar chúl na réamhscoile. Daingníodh an limistéar le fálú miotail, ballaí teorann, agus geataí.
- Aithnítear go raibh teacht air na páistí réamhscoile ar halla na scoile nuair a bhíonn drochaimsir ann. Bíonn sé comhroinnte le páistí na scoile chomh maith.
- Bhí teacht air na páistí réamhscoile ar an limistéar plandála, báisíní uisce agus gainimh, liathróidí peil agus cispheil agus bhí teacht acu ar an limistéar foscúil uile-aimsire.
- Chuir an fhoireann in iúl go mbíonn trealamh súgartha agus ábhair bhreise ar fáil i limistéar stórála atá slán ar chúl an áitribh. Déantar iad seo a rothlú ar bhonn séasúrach nó gach téama.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY223
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Iognáid
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Address of Service:	Scoil Iognáid, Bóithrín na Sliogán, Gaillimh, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 E364
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Name of Registered Provider:	Gwen Uí Riain
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	9th of June 2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	9
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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, Co. 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

Naíonra Iognáid is located in Scoil Iognáid, a national school on the west side of Galway city. The early years' service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and a sessional care programme from 9.00hrs to 12.00hrs, a part-time service from 9.00hrs to 13.30hrs, and full day care service until 16.30hrs from Monday to Friday. A bilingual service is offered through the medium of English and Irish. The service consists of 2 playrooms namely Seomra Gwen and Seomra Hannah which is located in a prefabricated unit, to the rear of the national school. There is a secure outdoor play area with an all-weather sheltered area, to the side of the premises and a grass area to the rear of the national school. Additionally, the children have access to the national school hall at an allocated times and to shared outdoor play areas. The early years' service caters for children between 2 years and 8 months to 6 years of age. A play-based preschool curriculum focusing on Montessori Methods and emerging interests is provided.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works in the premises, daily. There is a named designated deputy, when required. There are four staff and one adult who provides support under the access and inclusion model. The four staff hold a Quality and Qualifications of Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5 in early Childhood Care and Education. 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 announced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19 (1) (a).

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, 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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.
- (2) All staff files were reviewed.
- (a)&(b) Ten written validated references were available on file from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of the five staff members.
- (d) Police vetting was available on file for two staff who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 months, while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Four staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) award at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the five staff.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 39 pre-school children were aged between 3 to 5 years. Up until 13.00hrs, there were 14 pre-school children attending the services part time programme and 9 for the full day programme.
- There were three childcare staff working directly with the children and one adult who was providing support under the access and inclusion model. The registered provider assisted with the administration function of the inspection.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the notice board and available for parents, guardians, employees, unpaid workers, contractors, and authorised persons.

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*

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and a healthy eating policy was available on request to view. Parents and guardians supplied healthy nutritious snacks and lunches for the sessional and part-time children in the service. Two food groups were observed in each snack/ lunch provided.
- The main meal was provided by the preschool and consisted of a chicken and rice meal. The afternoon snacks and meal consisted of cheese, crackers, with mixed fruit (pears, oranges, apples) with milk or water to drink.

- Documentary evidence indicated that the children were encouraged to try different food tastes, textures, colours, and so forth.
- The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be independent.
- The tables and chairs were low sized and were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Rest / quiet areas were provided in the playrooms in the form of child size couches, cushions and matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.
- Staff recognised the children's individual cues of tiredness and responded to their need for sleep. Seomra Gwen was converted for sleep provision, with stackable beds, individual linen, blinds closed, lights dimmed and soft lullaby music playing after lunch for children's sleep provision.
- No child wore a nappy on the day of inspection. Nappy changing facilities were available with an airtight sealable bin, a clean intact changing mat with aprons and gloves provided.
- All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors. The children played predominately in the outdoor play area on the day of inspection.

Supporting Relationships

- On speaking with staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the preschool including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times, by phone calls and by email. The service had individual child profile scrapbooks, which captured the child's activities and experiences with documentary / photographic evidence and key adult observations.
- Staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities.
- The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences. The themes of the week were The Beach/ The School Tour/ and Summertime. Children were observed colouring and painting picture of summertime. The children and staff were planning their school tour for next week.

- The staff present on the day of the inspection showed kindness - were caring, supportive and reassuring whilst caring for the children. They interacted and sat with the children who engaged in all kinds of activities (i.e.) in free play, role play, creative play and eating together.

Physical and material environment

- Each of the playrooms had a good range of developmentally appropriate toys, equipment, and play materials suitable for the age, the range and number of children in attendance.
- The playrooms Seomra Gwen and Seomra Hannah were bright, colourful, and decorated to reflect the children's developing sense of identity and belonging.
- Resources were easily accessible, and the children demonstrated familiarity as they navigated their environments while independently accessing the toys, equipment, and materials they choose to play with.
- Suitable sized tables and chairs were provided in each playroom for the pre-school children.
- All toys and equipment were stored in containers with a visual display to identify belongings. The playrooms Seomra Gwen and Seomra Hannah had areas of interest including, a home corner, theatre with puppets, art and craft materials, construction areas, dolls, buggies, playhouses, building blocks, cars, tracks, trucks, books, libraries, black boards, puzzles, jigsaws, activity mats, nature tables, musical instruments, water, sand basins and an emotional tree with the children's emotions and feelings identified.
- Displayed on the walls, were visual aids and posters, including, months of the year, healthy food, birthdays, themes, and schedules.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA:

- The outdoor play area to the side and rear of the pre-school had a tarmac and grass surface and concrete paths. The area was secured by metal fencing boundary walls, and gates.
- It is acknowledged that the pre-school children had shared access to the school gymnasium when there were inclement weather conditions.
- The pre-school children had access to the planting area, hand ball area, sand and water basins and an all-weather sheltered area.
- Play materials included, footballs, basket balls, streamers, planting, sand and water scooters and hula hoops.
- There were additional play equipment and materials available in a secure storage area to the side of the premises, which staff advised were rotated on a theme seasonal basis.