

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE022			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tir na Nog			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Derryvarrogue, Donadea, Naas, Co. Kildare			
<b>Eircode:</b>	W91 VY0T			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anne Smyth			
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/12/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	2
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91X38W.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Duignan			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector			
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>				
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>	n/a			

### Description of service

Tir na N'og was established in 1999 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years by Anne Smith, the registered provider.

It is registered for part time, morning and afternoon sessional care and education, Monday to Friday. The service is in a purpose-built premises and an adjacent prefabricated unit located within the grounds of the registered providers own home in a rural setting in Donadea. There is set down and parking available. The service consists of a large open plan room, a smaller room for arts and crafts activities and a sensory room for quieter activities. A secured outdoor play area is available at the rear of the service.

### Staffing

Tir na N'og employs five staff including four childcare staff including the registered provider and one administrator.

An external contractor provides a movement class for the children every month.

The registered provider works directly with the preschool children. All the adults working in the service had completed a major award in Early Childhood Care 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.

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 a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- Seven records were reviewed including a record for an adult that visits the premises to provide a movement class.
- (2)
- (a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of two adults and one written and verified past employer reference was available in respect of one adult whose records were reviewed.
- (b) Two written and verified reference from a reputable source other than a past employer was available in respect of four adults and one written and verified reference from a reputable source other than a past employer was available in respect of one adult whose records were reviewed
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults whose records were reviewed.
- (d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) Five adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## 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) There were fourteen children attending the service being supervised directly by three adults.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.
- (8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

### 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) – (i) A sample of ten records were assessed and all were found to be compliant.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy in place.

The children were observed to have healthy snacks including sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fruit and yogurts.

Fresh drinking water was readily available in the pre-school throughout the morning and the children were observed self-serving themselves.

The staff sat with the children and encouraged social interaction and conversation. The children were provided with plenty of time to enjoy their food.

The children attending on a part time basis were provided with a second meal.

## 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 service was secured and controlled by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The toys and equipment observed were in good condition and working order. Cleaning agents and equipment was stored out of reach of the children. The staff were familiar with the foods that were a potential choking hazard such as grapes and popcorn. It was observed that grapes, when served to the children for snack, were cut in half to mitigate the risk of a child potentially choking.

The staff completed indoor and outdoor environmental risk assessments daily and there was a system in place to manage maintenance issues when they arose.

##### Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Nappy changing facilities were available for any child who was not fully toilet trained. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environment which was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

**Administration of Medication:**

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the required safe practices when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

**Safe Sleep:**

A comfortable rest area beside the reading area in the care room was available to any child who wished to take a break from activities or rest. Facilities for sleep were available for any child attending on a part time basis requiring sleep.

**Fire Safety:**

Fire drills were carried out in the service on a monthly basis. The staff members were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed.

**Outing:**

The service conducted outings and an operational policy was in place to guide practice.

Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
    - (i) pre-school child attending the service,
    - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,
    - (iii) an employee, or
    - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and
  - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained for the pre-school rooms inspected.
- (2) Not applicable as this was not a drop-in service.
- (3) (a),(b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4) The registered provider confirmed that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

Children in the service were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection including, indoors and outdoors, during snack time and as necessary for hand washing and toilet use.