

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE164			
Name of Service:	Naíonra Aoibhneas			
Address of Service:	The Mill Community Centre, Celbridge, Co. Kildare			
Eircode:	W23 P6P5			
Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Lawlor			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	21/10/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Rd, Naas, Co Kildare			
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien			
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	N/A			

Description of service

Naíonra Aoibhneas is a privately owned Irish language sessional service which provides care to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 09:15 to 12:15, Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a room on the first floor of a multi-use community centre in Celbridge, Co Kildare. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area with grass surfacing available on the grounds of the centre. The service also has access to an indoor hall.

Staffing

Naíonra Aoibhneas is a single-handed service run solely by the registered provider. A second person, familiar with the operation of the service, is within close distance and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

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/ records/ 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 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,*
- (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*

(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)(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge and was on the premises throughout the inspection. Another adult is available to provide assistance to the registered provider in the event of an emergency.

(2)

The files of two adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows.

(a)

Four validated, written references were available from a past employer for the two adults.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the two adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

Records were available evidencing that the registered provider and the emergency contact person held the required qualification or equivalent.

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)-

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

Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 10 children attending the service being supervised by one adult on the day of inspection.

(8)(c)

The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the registered provider was available to attend the service to assist in the event of an emergency.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(h)

Details of the attendance of each child were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

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

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

(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

(1)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and the registered provider reported that children bring their lunch in from home. Lunch took place at 11:30 and children had a drink with their meal. Children were observed engaging in conversation with their peers and were given time to eat their meal.

Children were given responsibility appropriate to their age and were encouraged and supported to be independent. Children were observed taking their lunches from their bags and cleaning up after their lunch and play. The registered provider provided assistance to the children as required when carrying out these tasks.

The registered provider displayed warmth and sensitivity during all interactions with the children throughout the inspection and demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly.

Children's language development was supported through one to one and group discussions and songs which were observed during the inspection.

The registered provider described how they communicate with parents daily about their child at arrival and collection time.

The care room was bright and was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included sensory play, a home corner, small world toys,

construction toys and a rest area and library. The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care room.

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 adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. The adult and children were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including before lunch.
- An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and maintained in good condition.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

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)

A person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the room.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.