

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY087
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Name of Service:	Nai Ionad Na Cille
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Address of Service:	Castledrum, Castlemaine, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 R6VA
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Name of Registered Provider:	Cora Carroll
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	13/07/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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

Nai Ionad na Cille is a community service that offers sessional, part-time and full day care for children registered to cater for children between the age of 0 and 6 years. Currently the service is catering for children between the age of 6 months and 6 years.

The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:30 am and 6:00 pm and operates from a purpose built 2 storey facility adjacent to Keel Community centre.

Staffing

There are 28 adults employed in the service, the designated person in charge worked on administration duties and provided assistance in the care rooms as required. The registered provider does not work in the centre.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections 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.

Additional Information

The inspector was informed that work on the provision of the additional sanitary facilities located in the upstairs sessional pre-school room will be completed by the end of August 2023. This room is not in operation for the summer holiday period.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, the deputy 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, 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There is a designated person in charge and a named deputy both who work daily on the premises.
 - (b) At all times during the period when the preschool service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.
- (2) The designated person in charge informed the inspector that no adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 11/10/2022, therefore no recruitment records were reviewed.

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)

The registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2) There were 3 care rooms were in operation on the day of the inspection as listed hereunder: -

Creche

There were 4 staff caring for 11 children aged between 11 months and 2 years, 3 attending on a part-time basis and 8 attending on a full day care basis.

Junior pre-school

There were 3 staff caring for 14 children aged between 3 years and 4 years, 7 children attending on a full day care basis, 6 children attending on a part-time basis and 1 child attending on a sessional basis.

Senior pre-school room(upstairs)

There were 2 staff caring for 15 children aged between 5 years and 7 years, 9 children were school aged, and 4 pre-school children were attending on a full day care basis. The room closed at 2pm, the pre-school children were transferred to the care of the staff in the junior pre-school room.

The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(8)(a) The registered provider did ensure that 2 adults are on the premises during the hours of operation.

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 sample of 15 records were inspected and were found to have the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

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:

- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The following records were kept:

- (j) records to document any medication administered to a child attending the service with signed parental consent.
- (k) record books to detail any accident, injury or incident involving a child attending the service.

It was observed that the service had kept both electronic and written records and the inspector was informed that work is continuous on expanding the electronic records.

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

- Nappy changing was carried out in a timely manner as required.
- The children had unlimited access to the toilets and the staff were on hand to provide assistance as required.
- The children enjoyed free movement within the playrooms to play freely, to access toys and play materials stored on the low level open low-level shelving and on the floor.
- The children attending had access to designated secured outdoor play areas with play surfaces of soft matting and concrete footpaths. The service had a variety of fixed and moveable play items, seating (Buddy bench) planting boxes and sand/water boxes.
- The staff served the food to the children that was delivered from the kitchen staff to each of the playrooms. The older children buttered rice cakes and helped themselves to the fruit provided under the supervision of the staff.
- The children were allowed plenty of time to eat their food in a relaxed and un-hurried environment.
- The staff caring of the children on the day of the inspection were kind and caring praising and encouraging the children acknowledging children's attempts when colouring, building blocks and after using the toilet and hand washing.
- The children in the Junior and Senior pre-school rooms were observed using the rest areas provided.

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-

(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.

Compliance Information

- There were 2 designated sleep rooms located within the creche room with 3 standard cots in sleep room 1 and 4 standard cots in sleep room 2. An appropriate supply of suitable cot linen was provided that was individual to each child.
- There was a system in place for the rotational use of the cots.
- Low level beds with appropriate linen were available for the older children who required to rest or sleep. On the day of the inspection children were observed using the sleep room facilities as children required a rest or sleep. The low-level beds were used in a designated space in the crèche supervised by 1 staff member while another staff member cared for the children who were not resting.
- Designated rest areas were provided in each of the playrooms that consisted of soft matting, cushions and comfortable seating. The inspector was informed that the service will be sourcing additional seating for the space in the junior pre-school room.
- All sleep and rest facilities were appropriate for meeting the needs for children attending in a full day care service on the day of the inspection.

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 provides all the food consumed by the children each day in the service. There are designated adults employed for working each day in the kitchen for preparing and cooking each meal provided.
- A weekly menu is provided for the parents detailing the food content for each meal served. The main meal served on the day of inspection was lamb sir-fry with courgettes, peppers and noodles.
- Milk and water are the 2 main drinks offered to the children during the day.
- The inspector observed that water was freely available and accessible to the children in the rooms during the day.
- The food served on the day of inspection for snack times included buttered rice cakes, natural live yogurt and with a dairy free alternative served with pureed banana and pineapple.
- Additional food portions were available, the inspector observed the staff offering same to the children.

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 main entrance/exit doors were secured to prevent unauthorised access and preventing a child exiting while unsupervised.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed.
- The cleaning products seen on inspection were stored out of the children's reach on high level shelving and within secured cupboards.

Infection Control:

- The perishable food items were stored in the fridge.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to eating, after using the toilet and after playing outdoors.

Safe Sleep:

- The inspector observed staff conducting physical checks on children who slept in the standard cots and on the low-level beds. The checks were conducted at 3-minute intervals until the child was asleep and thereafter every 5 minutes for the duration of sleep/rest. A record of the position, colour and breathing of the child was recorded. The staff use a timer to alert them when the checks are due.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the outdoor play areas inspected the timber posts, doors and gates had rough splintered areas posing a risk of injury to the children.
2. An unsecured cable attached to the air-cooling unit was located beside a cot in sleep room 1 posing a risk of strangulation to children.

Infection Control:

3. There was no warm water available at the sink in each of the adult sanitary facilities to enable effective hand washing by the adults to prevent the risk of the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The designated person in charge stated that: -

General Safety:

1. The work has commenced on sanding and painting the outside timbers, doors and gates. The said work will be complete prior to August 29th, 2023. Maintenance will be carried out and the timber will be treated annually.
2. The cable identified was placed inside a conduit on the wall, so as the children have no access to it.

Infection Control:

3. The immersion is now on during opening hours. The temperature of the water to be recorded daily. The service is working with the plumber and electrician to identify the cause of the issue and replace necessary parts required. This work is to be completed prior to August 29th, 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. The statement is accepted as evidence.
2. A photograph of the cable enclosed in the conduit.

Infection Control:

3. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met. The above will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(b) The premise was observed to be safe and secure.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. Areas of the paint work on the walls and the skirting boards in the rooms and bathrooms were unclean with some of the paint work peeling off.
 2. The fixed play units and the soft matting tiles in the outdoor area were unclean.
 3. There were gaps in the soft matting tiles in the outdoor area serving the creche.
- (e)
4. The nappy changing facilities in use on the day of inspection for children requiring nappy changing in the Junior pre-school consisted of using a changing mat on the floor in the toilet cubicle. It was not suitable or an adequate procedure for changing children's nappies. There was a foldable nappy changing unit provided within the said sanitary accommodation, however staff were not using it.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The designated person in charge stated that: -

(d)

1. The building will be painted in full within the next 2 to 3 weeks, 2 upstairs rooms are complete, and the rooms downstairs will be completed on a Saturday. Talks have begun with the community centre to identify the cause of the paint peeling off and how it can be rectified. The rooms will be painted annually. Higher quality durable paint has been purchased for use.

2. The outside will be power washed every 1-2 weeks or more as required by the maintenance person on a Saturday using the power washer purchased by the centre.

3. The outside matting has been pushed together; maintenance will continue to check for any future spacing in the matting.

(e)

4. Following discussions to with the staff, the wall unit will be used. They have looked at options for providing steps up to the unit, a 2-step foldable step stool is on order.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d)

1. The statement is accepted as evidence.
2. The statement is accepted as evidence together with some photographs of the washed areas.
3. A photograph of the corrected matting area was submitted.

(e)

4. The statement is accepted as evidence together with proof of order for a steel 2-tread step stool.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met. The above will be reviewed at the next inspection.