

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY087				
Name of Service:	Nai Ionad Na Cille				
Address of Service:	Castledrum, Castlemaine, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V93 R6VA				
Name of Registered Provider:	Mahmood Hussain				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date(s) of Inspection:	04/11/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>50</td> <td>PM</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </table>	AM	50	PM	31
AM	50	PM	31		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
Inspection undertaken by:	B. Fraher and N. Reidy				
Title:	Early Years Inspectors				

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

Nai Ionad na Cille is a community service that offers sessional, part-time and full day care for the children registered. The service caters for children aged 0 to 6 years. Currently the service is catering for children aged between 10 months and six years old. The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 7:30 am and 6:00 pm and operates from a purpose built 2 storey facility adjacent to Keel community centre.

Staffing

Currently there are 19 adults employed in the service of whom 15 work directly with the children, the registered provider, the operations manager, the cook and kitchen assistant. The designated person in charge worked on administration duties and provides assistance in the care rooms as required. The registered provider was on site the day of inspection.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9, 11, 19, 23, 25, 28 and 29, however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 20. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the operations manager, registered provider, 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,*
- (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) The registered provider had appointed a person in charge, to oversee the operation of the service. There was a named deputy manager also in place.
- (b) The registered provider, the person in charge, the deputy manager, and the operations manager were on duty at the service when the inspectors arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were available at the service during the hours of operation.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to 19 adults who were employed in the service were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the thirty-eight required references, 29 references were from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the thirty-eight required references, 9 references were from another source other than a previous employer with records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and was on file for each of the 19 adults.

(d) Six police vetting records were on file for 6 adults who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All 15 staff members had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

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 the time of inspection, there was a minimum number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at all times.

(2) Minimum adult to child ratios were observed in all care rooms, over the duration of the inspection as follows:

Morning

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children present	Number of Adults present
Creche (10 months – 2 years)	13	4

Toddler Room (2 years 3 months – 3 years 8 months)	8	2
Junior pre-school room (2 years 8 months - 3years 7 months)	19	2
Senior pre-school (3 years 10 months - 4 years)	10	2

Afternoon:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children present	Number of Adults present
Creche (10 months – 2 years)	12	3
Toddler Room (2 years 3 months - 2yrs 7 months)	5	1
Junior pre school room (2 years 8 months – 4 years)	14	3
Senior pre-school (3 years 10 months - 4 years)	Closed for afternoon	

(8) (a) The service operated with at least two adults present at all times. This was observed on the day of inspection and as evidenced through examination of the staff roster.

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

Basic needs

- The layout of the care rooms supported the children to move freely within their environment and to actively engage in their chosen tasks.
- Outdoor games and activities were also observed at the time of inspection such as staff teaching children to walk on bucket stilts and use balance bikes.
- Staff were noted to carry out nappy changing at regular intervals in the creche room.

Supporting relationships around children

- The adults in all care rooms were noted to interact with the children in a caring manner throughout the inspection. Staff were observed to support children to engage positively with their peers
- Sensory play and imaginative play were promoted through the use of water and dress up as seen in the senior pre-school room.
- On the day of inspection, a staff member celebrated their birthday and children were seen to fully engage in the singing of happy birthday.
- Staff were heard praising and encouraging children in the creche room when they were discussing a donkey and the children were naming parts such as ears and encouraged by staff to find their own ears
- Children were observed to play independently such as playing with farm animals in the creche and playing dress up in the senior room.
- Children were seen to communicate and engage well with each other, for example when they played in the senior room using plastic balls as fireworks and realising them into the air.

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.

Compliance Information

- (a)
- The children had access to both indoor and outdoor environments during the day. Four care rooms in the service were in use on the morning of inspection and three in the afternoon.
 - There were well defined interest areas, such as imaginative play areas, art and craft area and tabletop and seating areas.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b)
1. The rest area in the Junior preschool comprised of a carpet mat with no adequate seating or soft furnishings area which was not adequate for the number of children attending the service to rest or relax. The rest area needs further development to meet the needs of the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service purchased cushions for the cosy area and the room leaders have been instructed to ensure that the cosy areas are suitable for children to rest with sufficient soft furnishings. The service are considered developing the cosy area by adding additional seating or soft play furniture in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs submitted to the inspector of the cosy area.

Summary Comment

The requirement is met

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 in each of the care rooms was secured to prevent children gaining unsupervised access outside of the care room.
- The two outdoor play areas were observed to be secured with walls in the back and timber fencing in the front area.
- The care room windows were adequately secured to ensure a child could not exit or fall.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition and were free from pinch and crush points.
- No cleaning agents were stored within reach of the children.
- The temperature of the warm water throughout the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were recorded at 24.7°C to 43°C.
- All blind cords were secured by tension devices and not accessible to children.
- A telephone was available in each care room to contact the office or other care rooms if needed.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children, with warm running water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper towel dispensers available. Children were observed to wash their hands after they used the toilet. Staff were observed to remind children to do so in the outdoor toilets.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste.
- Children's coats and outdoor clothing were stored off the ground on wall hooks.
- Adequate distance was maintained between cots of over 50cms.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to the children at the time of the inspection.

- The inspector observed that 3 children were prescribed emergency medicine with signed parental consent and an action plan clearly displayed for staff. caring for the children. Staff informed the inspector that they had received training in the administration of these medicines.
- Temperature reducing medicine was stored out of reach of children and was in date.

Safe Sleep:

- The air temperatures in the 2 designated sleep rooms and in the care rooms that were used for sleeping, were maintained within the required temperature range of 16°C to 20°C for children aged under 12 months.
- For children over 1 year, the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Staff remained with children who were sleeping on floor mats and stackable beds.
- Staff were noted to maintain sleep records in relation to the children's colour, breathing and position, at 3 minute intervals for the first 20 minutes of sleep and 5 minute intervals thereafter for the duration of the sleep.

Non-Compliance Information

Safe Sleep:

One child under the age of 2 was observed to sleep on a floor mats in the creche rooms. Tusla's *Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months* states that the use of floor mats or stackable beds for children aged under 24 months are not sufficiently conducive to sleep for children in this age range.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The service ordered two new floor bed with a mattress suitable for this age group. Staff have been informed and been shown a copy of the sleep document for children under 24 months for future reference

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the invoice was sent to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The requirements have been met.

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) Evidence was available to demonstrate that 6 of the adults held current First Aid Responder (FAR) certification and that at least one of these adults was rostered to work at the service during the hours of operation.

(2) (a) There were sufficiently stocked wall mounted first aid boxes available in the service, which was safely stored out of reach of children.

(b) At all times when the service was in operation, first aid supplies were accessible to the adults if a child may require treatment.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate indicated that sufficient cover was in place for the provision of a full day care service and the policy was valid until 27th March 2025.

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.

Compliance Information

(a)

- From a visual assessment, the building appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

- Access to the building is via a bell entry system and there is a door release button at adult height on the interior.
- The two outdoor environments are enclosed securely.

(c)

- Within the care rooms, natural lighting was provided through windows and this was supplemented with artificial lighting.
- Adequate lighting was also ensured in the sanitary facilities, through the use of a combination of natural and artificial lighting.
- Each of the four care rooms were supplied with natural ventilation, through open windows.

(d)

- The premises was noted to be maintained in a clean condition.
- There was a written cleaning schedule in place, with provision to record frequent cleaning of the various areas and equipment throughout the service.

(e)

- The children had access to toilet facilities adjoining each care room.
- They are equipped with toilets and a wash hand basin with warm running water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a lidded, pedal-operated bin.
- Nappy changing facilities are available in each care room
- The adult sanitary facilities consisted of 2 toilet and 2 hand basins.