

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY089
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Annascaul CLG
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Address of Service:	Sports Hall, Annascaul, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V92 AE4Y
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ines Zdesar
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	17/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	n/a
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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

Naíonra Annascaul CLG is a registered community based early years sessional service. The service offers 1 session operating between the hours of 9:20am and 12:20 pm Monday to Friday for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years. Currently the service provide care for children aged between 3 years and 5 years. The service operates from a room on the ground floor in Annascaul Community Sports centre with a designated enclosed indoor hall.

Staffing

There was a total of 4 adults employed in the service to work directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service with the children.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 is the designated person in charge and a named person who can deputize as required.

(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 person in charge confirmed that 3 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 11/09/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 3 adults were reviewed.

(a) 2 written validated references were on file from a past employer.

(b) Not applicable as the 2 references on file were from a past employer.

(c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 1 adult.

(4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) 4 references were not on file for 2 adults.
- (d) Police Vetting was not on file for 1 adult who resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 consecutive months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried in respect of references for 2 adults and Police vetting for 1 adult of the files reviewed prior to the adult was appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The Manager stated that:-

- (2) (a) 4 references were obtained with validations that are now on file. Going forward the telephone reference checklist will be followed for all new staff.
- (d) Police Vetting was obtained for 1 adult.
- (3) 4 references were obtained for the 2 adults and Police Vetting for 1 adult was obtained.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (a) 4 validated references in respect of 2 adults were received.
- (d) Police Vetting was received for 1 adult.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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) The registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children present.
- (3) There were 3 adults working with 7 children aged between 3 years and 5 years attending on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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.

Compliance Information

- The parents/guardians of the children supply the food for mealtimes.
- Drinking water was available at the sink in the playroom and the children has access to their refrigerated drinks during the session.
- The staff informed the inspector that a Healthy Eating Policy in in place in the service and the food provided by the parents is in line with same.
- A "helper" system was in place to distribute the children's lunch bags and staff encouraged the children to practice manners and say, "thank you".
- The staff sat with the children during the mealtime and provided any help as was needed with opening food packaging and lunch boxes.
- The food observed on inspection included sandwiches, fruit: - bananas, oranges, strawberries, sliced apples and grapes and yogurts.
- Children were afforded ample time to eat their food, children who had finished eating went off playing.
- The children's individual toileting needs were attended to during the session.
- The children enjoyed free movement within the playroom and within the spacious indoor hall.
- The inspector observed the children had choices in staying in the playroom and playing in the hall or going between both via the door directly opening into the hall from the playroom.

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:

- All internal doors were appropriately secured with alarms in working order on some doors.
- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- A fridge was provided and used to store the children's perishable food items and water in the playroom.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The temperature of the warm water at the low-level sinks in the children's sanitary was recorded between 44.9 degrees Celsius and 48 degrees Celsius posing a risk of scalding to children.
2. The eye pads, the antiseptic wipes and large dressing had expired and were not suitable for use.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The manager stated that:

General Safety:

1. The temperature valves have been installed by a plumber.
2. The first aid kit has been updated; it will be checked regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A description of the works complete from the plumber employed stating that thermostatic mixing valves were installed on 2 wash hand basins for warm water. Photographs of water temperature readings for the 2 wash hand basins recorded at between 37 degrees Celsius and 38 degrees Celsius.
2. A photograph of the first aid box with the expiry date for the contents attached was submitted.

Summary Comment

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

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.

Compliance Information

(1) A record book was in place that recorded the check in and out time for the pre-school children attending.

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) 3 adults working with the children had current First Aid Responder training with the certifications on file.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was available on the premise stored in a high-level cupboard in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
- (a) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 27/04/2023.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers was 26/04/2022 and the smoke alarm was 18/11/2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was on file.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 15 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 31/08/'23.

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,

((e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(a) The premises was observed to be safe and secure.

Non-Compliance Information

(e)The nappy changing facilities in use consisted of a slim mat used on the floor of the sanitary accommodation. It was not suitable or adequate for changing children's nappies.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager stated that: -

A wall mounted nappy changing unit was purchased.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the nappy changing unit in place in the children's sanitary accommodation. The features and details from the manufacturer stated it takes a 50kg maximum load.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation is met. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.