

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:	Eileen Moriarty
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	04/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>08</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	08	PM	None
AM	08	PM	None		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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
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Description of service

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

Staffing

Currently, there are 4 adults employed by the service, 3 of whom work with the children who attend. The registered provider is not service based and there is 1 student who is on placement in the service. Each of the adults who are employed to work directly with the children have attained a relevant 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/ safety. 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 inspection was a triggered inspection following information received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, deputy in charge 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 ensured that both a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge was assigned to the setting.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service. And both remained available to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the five adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Ten references were on file from previous employers with records of validation were on file.
- (b) Not applicable, all the required references were from past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the five adults. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect the applicable adults.
- (d) Police Vetting was not required in respect of the four adult CVS inspected .
- (4) The three adults employed to work with the children 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 maintained on file.
- Qualifications were not required in respect of the registered provider who was not working with the children in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) The requirement or otherwise for police vetting could not be determined in the case of one adult for whom no CV was on file.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The CV has been obtained; it is now on file. No Police vetting was required. A check list is in place for the front of future staff files.

Supporting documentation submitted

The CV for the one adult in question.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies were reviewed and found to be adequate:

- The Complaints Policy.
- The Policy on Behaviour Management.

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) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.
- (3) There were 2 adults caring for 8 children aged between 2 to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not currently 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, and*
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishments is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending he service.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS

- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located outside the playroom, the staff were available to support the children as needed. The inspector observed the children independently using the toilets during the session.
- The children's individual toileting needs were addressed during the session. The staff member was observed talking to the child and explaining in advance that their nappy would be changed.

- The staff informed the inspector nappy changing is carried out as required during the session and that they check in with the children in question regularly during the session.
- The inspector observed that children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence, for example hand washing at the low-level sink in the playroom prior to the mealtime.
- The service provided individual space in the playroom for each child's belongings to support organised access and independence to their coats and bags.
- On arrival to the service the children placed their lunches and drinks bottles in the fridge.
- Children were observed independently helping themselves to their drink's bottles during the session outside of the mealtime.
- The children had opportunities to move about freely in the playroom and in the spacious hall during the inspection. For the period of time the hall was used on inspection, the door between the playroom and the hall was left open to allow children who were supervised to go between both as they so wished and for access to the toilet.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- It was observed that the staff spoke to the children in low soft tones of voice, sat with the children and were involved in the children's play for example the tabletop activity with pegs and the peg boards.
- The inspector observed the staff coming down to children's level, they vel, for example supporting children to settle into the service with the parent/guardian present. This was carried out in an unhurried manner, the parent/guardian left the playroom when the child settled.
- The staff ensured that the children had ongoing opportunities to interact with each other through free play activities and during the mealtime.
- Children that wished to opt out of an activity were facilitated to do so, they were observed resting on a bench and taking a drink.
- The staff furnished the inspector with journals for the children that displayed various artwork and photographs of activities the children had participated in the service. The children would take this home at the end of the year.
- The inspector observed the children practicing songs and rhymes for the upcoming graduation.
- Children did communicate their needs to the staff members during the who were observe to be receptive and responsive to their needs.

- The children were praised for their efforts for example assisting with cleaning up before the mealtime, sharing with their peers and they were issued gentle reminders for example to “be careful” and “no pushing our friends”.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- The playroom has a display of materials and equipment arranged so as they were visible and readily accessible to promote independent access by children.
- There was open low-level shelving displaying the materials and equipment in the room. The children were observed playing with their toys of choice during the period of free-play for example with tabletop activities, accessing colouring pencils, paper and colouring books from the shelving.
- The spacious hall was used during the inspection where children were observed riding tricycles, running, playing with blocks and buggies for example.

(2) The registered provider did ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service. There was a policy on promoting positive behaviour management in the service and staff demonstrated an understanding on managing children’s behaviour in the setting.

(3) No practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

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 parents/guardians of the children attending provided the food consumed on the premise.
- The inspector observed the children accessed their water bottles independently at various times during the session. The service supply bottled water for the children in addition to the water supplied from home.
- The inspector was informed that if children were hungry, they had access to their food at times outside the allocated mealtime. The children are facilitated in finishing off their breakfast in the centre as is required at times.

- The food observed on inspection included sandwiches, yogurts and a variety of fruit. The service provided the necessary crockery for the children.
- The perishable food items were stored in the fridge in the playroom.
- A “helper” system was in operation, whereby a designated child distributed the lunches and the drinks bottles at the mealtime allocated. This exercise was carried out in an unhurried manner under the supervision of the adults present. The inspector observed each of the children attending identified their individual lunch bag and drinks bottle.
- The inspector observed the children had ample time to eat their food. Children that had finished went to the hall to play and an adult remained with the children who were finishing their food. The adults supervised the children, encouraged them with opening food packaging, praised them for their efforts and assisted them as was required.

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 external door was appropriately secured with a buzzer system in place to prevent children from exiting the playroom unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premise.
- Cleaning products observed were stored high out of the children’s reach.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A chair was in place on top of the low-level push bar openable handle on one set of fire exit doors in the hall posing a risk of injury to children.
2. A room in the hall that stored equipment and materials used by the various groups within the community centre was not secured posing a risk of injury to the children.

Infection Control:

3. The floor around the double sets of fire doors in the hall were unclean posing a risk of cross infection to children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1 & 2. A meeting took place on 16.06.'24 with the Naíonra committee to discuss the maintenance and upkeep of the hall. The hall committee has been contacted and they have assured that the exit door and storage room will be fixed over the summer months before the service re-opens.

Infection Control:

3. The hall committee are looking to hire a person to maintain the hall. The fire door areas were cleaned. A record will be kept of equipment /issues that require maintenance and it will be forwarded to the relevant committees that health and safety issues relating to the halls upkeep must be maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1 & 2. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Infection Control:

3. Photographs of the cleaned floor around the fire exit doors were received.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met in respect of point 3. The requirement remains outstanding for points 1 & 2. The above will be the subject of inspection on the next inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The Inspector was informed that the two adults working with the children had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the certifications in respect of these were on file 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 open to inspection.

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 sessional service.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 31/08/'24.