

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY090
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Naionra Aine
-------------------------	--------------

Address of Service:	6 Lioscarrig Drive, Caherslee, Tralee, Co. Kerry
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	V92 H590
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Ann O'Dowd
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date(s) of Inspection:	15/11/2023
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	04
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

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	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

Description of service

Naíonra Áine is a privately run service providing a full day care, part-time and sessional service and facilitates the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:00am and 5:30 pm daily. The service is registered to cater for children between the age of 2 and 6 years.

Staffing

There are currently 9 adults attached to the early years service who are involved in the direct care of the children. This includes the registered provider who works daily in the setting, 4 adults employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme and 2 students who was undertaking work placement in the service.

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.

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, 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 is the designated person in charge and a named person who can deputize as required.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge and the named deputy are on the premises.
- (2) The inspector confirmed with the deputy in charge that 9 adults were employed in the service and 2 students on work placement, the recruitment records for these 11 adults were reviewed.
- (a) 19 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 3 written validated references were on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 11 adults.
- (d) Police Vetting was on file for 1 adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6 and above.

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 rostered to work with the children on the day of the inspection.

(2)
Preschool Room 1
There were 5 staff and 1 student caring for 22 children aged between 3 years and 5 years, 10 children attending on a sessional basis and 9 children attending on a part-time basis and full day care basis.

Pre-school room 2
There were 4 staff caring for 21 children aged between 3 years and 4 years, 14 children were attending on a sessional basis and 7 children were attending on a part-time basis and full day care basis.
The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)
(a) The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation as evidenced in the staff roster.

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;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (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

(1)

The following records were kept in writing: -

- (h) Details of attendance by a pre-school child on a daily basis.
- (i) Details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (j) A template to record details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent was on file. The inspector was informed that no child in attendance was in receipt of medication.
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending 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

Compliance Information

- The children's food was provided by the parents/guardians. A microwave was in place in both playrooms to re-heat children's food as was required. The registered provider provided bottled water for re-filling the children's re-usable drinks bottles.
- The food observed on inspection sandwiches, pasta, cheese portions, a selection of fruit and yogurts.
- The staff sat with the children in the playroom at snack time and ate with them, this encouraged and promoted conversations between the children and the adults.
- The children's movement was not restricted, they moved about freely within the spacious playrooms.
- The children were observed using the toilets independently, with the staff on hand to provide assistance if required.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the playrooms and the inspector observed the children were facilitated to the toilet in a timely manner from the outdoor play area.
- The children's individual toileting needs were attended to in a discreet, caring and in a timely manner.
- The staff were observed to interact with the children in a kind, caring, supportive manner. The children sought support of the staff and the staff were prompt in responding to individual children's needs.
- The adults greeted the parents/guardians and grandparents in a professional, friendly and positive manner.
- The registered provider and staff provided the inspector with details of individual children's care plans and the established links made with support agencies in the provision of care for the children, in partnership with the parents.
- The children had access to a varied range of toys in the playroom that were accessible on the low-level open shelving and on the floor.
- A designated sensory room located in playroom 2 was provided for children's use. It was equipped with a variety of sensory lighting, equipment, music and soft matting.

- The children attending both rooms availed of long periods of playtime in the spacious partially roofed area outdoor. The registered provider is regularly upgrading the area as was evidenced with the entire artificial grass surface installed since the last 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.

(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) 7 adults had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training and 2 adults had First Aid for children training with the certification on file in respect of the training.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was provided in each playroom stored out of the reach of the children on high level shelving in the respective playrooms.

(b) The first aid boxes were accessible to the adults and were out of the reach of the children

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) A template to record each fire drill that had taken place in the service was maintained. The last recorded fire drill took place on 10/10/2023.
 - (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 for the smoke alarm and the firefighting equipment was 31/03/2023.
- (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 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 service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 44 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24.

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

(b) The entrances to the premise were secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access in.

(e) The warm water provided at the children's wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled to a maximum temperature of 43 degrees Celsius. Lidded sealed pedal operated bins were provided for waste disposal.