

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY095		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Cheann Trá		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ionad Chaitlín Naofa, Ceann Trá, Trá Li, Co. Kerry		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 H4CA		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ray Mac Pháidín		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	06/11/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM None
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A		

### Description of service

Naíonra Cheann Trá is a registered early learning and care service that offers sessional care to children between the age of 2 years and 6 years. The service currently caters for children between the age of 2 years 8 months and 6 years.

The service operates from a single playroom, with the sanitary accommodation located within the room. There is a designated enclosed outdoor play area located at the rear of the building

### Staffing

There are 6 adults attached to the service. The registered provider and the service co-ordinator affiliated to Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta do not work in the service with the children. There was 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme.

### 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.

### 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.*

*(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 a designated person in charge and there is a named deputy to deputise as required.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the designated person in charge and the deputy were on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 6 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Of the 12 references required, there were 8 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 12 references required, 4 references from a source other than a previous employer on file with records of validation.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 6 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable as the 6 adults had not resided outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for greater than six consecutive months.
- (4) All adults working directly 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 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.*

*(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 3 adults caring for 15 children aged between 3 years to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

### 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 registered provider did ensure that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (h) Details of the children’s daily attendance including the arrival and departure time.
  - (i) Details of the staff attendance each day including the arrival and departure time.
  - (j) There were no completed records on file, the inspector was informed that no child in attendance was in receipt of medication.
  - (k) There were records on file, a sample of which were examined detailing any accidents, incidents or injury involving children attending the service. The records examined were completed in full.

### 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

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs:-

- The parent’s supply the food for the children attending.
- The staff informed the inspector that the food is in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. The service had recently re-issued healthy eating advice to the parents.

- The children's drink's bottles were accessible to the children on top of a low-level cupboard in the room.
- The food observed included a variety of fruit, cheese, yogurts and rolls.
- The children were observed to independently access the toilets within the room, with staff assistance available.
- The children's individual toiletry needs were accommodated in the service, for example the provision of a specialized toilet seat.
- The children were facilitated to take a break from the indoor environment as was needed during the session.
- The playroom had a designated rest area furnished with low level couches.

### **Physical & Material Environment: -**

- The spacious playroom was organised with well resourced and distinct interest areas to support the children's learning and development.
- The play materials and equipment were readily accessible to the children on low level open shelving and on the floor.
- A wide range of additional play materials and equipment were stored in cupboards in the room, used with the curriculum themes during the year.
- The walls were brightly decorated with children's artwork and a variety of educational posters.
- The children's family photographs were on the wall at their eye level in the rest area.
- The outdoor play area was enclosed and resourced with for example water and sand tables, a slide and other toys stored indoors taken outside. There was a soft matting and grass surface underfoot.

## 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 front door to the building was secured, with entry granted via ringing the doorbell answered by the staff in the service preventing unauthorised access in.
- Cleaning agents observed on inspection in secure cupboards and on high level shelving.
- The emergency exits were unobstructed.

##### Infection Control:

- The service had a supply of thermostatically controlled warm water, soap dispensers, hand dryers, paper towels and pedal operated bin in the sanitary accommodation to ensure effective hand washing.
- The tables were cleaned down after the snack time.

## 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 registered provider did ensure that there was a person available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. Five adults had in date FAR training certifications.