

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY096
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Bellview Woods
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Faithleann, An Pháirc, Cill Airne, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 WP62
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sean O'Mahony
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	28/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	0
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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	N/A
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Description of service

Naíonra Bellview Woods is a private early years' service that is registered to cater for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The service currently caters for children aged between 2 years 9 months and 5 years. The service is open between the hours of 9 am and 12.30 pm Monday to Friday.

The service consists of 1 spacious playroom that is located within Gaelscoil Faithleann. It has a designated enclosed outdoor play area that is available to the children each day.

Staffing

There are 5 adults employed in the service. This includes 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme, 1 adult identified to provide relief cover and the registered provider, who 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.

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, the deputy 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) There is a 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 person in charge confirmed that 5 adults were employed in the service, the recruitment records for these adults were inspected.
- (a) 8 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
 - (b) 2 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 5 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.*
- (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 present.
- (3) There were 3 adults working with 14 children aged between 2 years 11 months 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 IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) There was a sample of 11 records inspected, each record contained the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

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 snacks were provided by the parents, the food observed on inspection included sandwiches, wraps, crackers, a selection of fruit, yogurts and cheese.
- 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 staff assisted the children to open their lunch boxes and food packaging and issued gentle reminders to "try themselves" and practising manners.
- There was drinking water available in the service, the children's water bottles were available to them on a low-level table beside the fridge in the playroom. The inspector observed the children helping themselves to a drink during the course of the session.
- The children had ample time to eat in a relaxed unhurried environment.
- The children's movement was not restricted, they moved about freely within the spacious playroom, exploring the various play equipment and materials provided on the open shelving and on the floor.
- The children were observed using the toilets independently, with the staff on hand to provide assistance if required. The toilets were located within the playroom providing for easy access for the children.
- The staff were observed to interact with the children in a kind, caring, supportive manner. The children sought support of the staff; the staff were prompt in responding to individual children's needs.
- The inspector observed the staff sitting with children, taking time to explain to them regarding sharing toys, taking turns and practicing manners for example.
- The adults greeted the parents/guardians in a professional, friendly and positive manner. They were invited into the playroom due to the inclement weather and the inspector observed the departure from the service was unhurried with parents taking time to wait for their children to finish playing. The adults gave a synopsis to the parents/guardians of the time the child spent in the service.

- A designated rest area furnished with soft cushions, a mat on the floor and a “chill out” bench was provided in the “cúinne na leabhar” area playroom. The person in charge informed the inspector that additional soft seating was on order.

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 internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children gaining access to the national school.
- The external doors were secured to restrict unauthorised access in and to prevent children going out unsupervised.
- The fire exit door with the push bar device to open it was alarmed and the alarm was in working order as was demonstrated on inspection.
- The first aid box was stored out of the reach of the children in the playroom.
- The medicines observed on inspection were clearly labelled and stored in a secured high-level cupboard.

Infection Control:

- The children were observed to wash their hands for example after using the toilet, after a painting activity and before the mealtime.
- There was warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels for effective hand washing by the adults and the children.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were in use for the hygienic disposal of refuse.
- The inspector observed the adults cleaning on the premise for example, sanitising the tables after tabletop activities and sanitising the tables and chairs, the interior of the fridge at the end of the session.
- The children’s perishable food items were stored in the fridge to prevent food spoilage.

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) 4 adults working directly with the children had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the certification was available on file.

(2)

(a) A suitable equipped first aid box was provided; it was stored on a high-level shelf in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and was 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) An electronic record was maintained to document each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place prior to the summer recess on 13/09/2023.

(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 fire fighting equipment was 14/02/2023.

(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 36 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24.