

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY098				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Lamha Beaga				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Carnahone, Beaufort, Killarney, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 F402				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Annemarie Sheehan-Doyle				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	24/02/2026				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>19</td> <td>PM</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </table>	AM	19	PM	13
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<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				

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Naíonra Lamha Beaga is registered as a privately operated early years service, catering for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The children attending on inspection were aged between 3 years and 5 years. The service offers two sessions, one between the hours of 8.45am and 12.15 pm and the second session between the hours of 12.30 pm and 4pm Monday to Friday.

The service is located on the site of the registered provider's private residence in the rural area of Beaufort, Co. Kerry. The children have access each day to an indoor playroom and an outdoor covered in playroom. The children access the sanitary accommodation in the indoor playroom and have the use of a spacious outdoor play area located at the rear of the building.

### Staffing

There are three adults attached to the service employed to work directly with the children each day. This includes the registered provider.

### 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 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 there is a named deputy to deputise in her absence as required.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the registered provider and the named deputy were on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 3 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) There were 6 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Not applicable, the 6 validated references required were from previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 3 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, the 3 adults had not resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The 3 staff 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 19 children aged between 4 years to 5 years attending the morning session and 3 adults caring for 13 children aged between 3 years to 4 years in the afternoon session. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(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, and

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs:

- The service promoted healthy eating and the food provided by the parents/guardians for the morning snack was observed to be healthy and nutritious.
- Self- toileting by the children was encouraged and practiced as observed on inspection.
- The entrance door to the indoor playroom and sanitary accommodation was observed to remain open for the duration of the session to allow children unrestricted access to the toilets at all times.
- The staff members were observed to promptly accompany the children to the toilet as required from the outdoor play area.
- The staff were observed to be kind and caring towards the children they were caring for.
- The children were supported and encouraged to participate in activities of their choice for example painting at the painting easel wearing protective aprons, doing puzzles and matching games for example.
- The circle time was used for the whole group participation. The children sat in a circle with the registered provider facilitating it.
- One of the activities observed at circle time was learning about sheep. The registered provider demonstrated to the children for example a bag of sheep's wool and the crook used by the farmer to herd the sheep. Conversations ensued about gathering, washing, dyeing and making jumpers out of the sheep's wool.
- The circle time was observed to promote positive group interactions, the children enjoyed it and it built a sense of community, as in the rural area where the service was located there were sheep grazing in the surrounding fields that could be clearly seen from the service.

##### Physical and Material Environment

- The children were observed to enjoy free movement between in the service and had the opportunity of going between the indoor and outdoor playrooms.
- The children used the outdoor play area during the course of the inspection for play and snack time.

- There was a variety of toys available and accessible to them on low level open shelving and on the floor.
- The spacious outdoor play area was used during the inspection and staff informed the inspector the area is used on a daily basis.
- A staff member was observed to go to the outdoor area prior to the children going out to check the area and dry the toys with towels.
- Under the supervision of the 3 staff members the children rode tractors with trailers, bikes, digging earth with shovels, loading it into the trailers and transporting, running and the children were heard planning their digging activity for the following day.

### 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 provide all the food that is consumed for the snacks in the service.
- The children had access to their water bottles stored in the individual cubbies indoors with a photograph of each child at the base of each cubie to enable easy identification by the children.
- The staff stated that the children's water bottles can be topped up with drinking water at the sink in the playroom.
- The food observed for the morning snack included sandwiches and a selection of fruit.

### 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:

- Cleaning agents observed were stored out of the reach of the children.
- The First aid box was stored in a high-level cupboard in the indoor playroom out of the reach of the children.
- The outdoor playroom was secured with fencing, walls and gates.
- The outdoor play area was secured with fencing, walls and gates.

##### Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities were provided in the sanitary accommodation and in the indoor and outdoor playrooms. There was warm water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towels to promote effective handwashing by the children and the staff.
- The children were observed to wash their hands after playing in the outdoor play area and before the snack time.
- Boxes of tissues were provided at children's reach for nose cleaning.

##### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills for children attending both sessions took place in the service as was evidenced in the written records on file.

### 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) The registered provider did ensure that that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee.
- On inspection the inspector observed an adult allocated to record each child's arrival and departure time to the service.
  - There was a table with the said record positioned inside the entrance gate to the service, under the covered in area on the way to the front entrance door of the playroom.

## 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) Of the three staff members working in the service, two staff had a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR) and one staff member had a current certified Paediatric First aid certificate.

- (2)
- (a) The sufficiently equipped first aid box was stored in a high-level cupboard in the playroom, out of reach of children.
  - (b) At all times when the service is in operation, the first aid box was accessible to the adults in the event that children required them.