

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY098				
Name of Service:	Naionra Lamha Beaga				
Address of Service:	Carnahone, Beaufort, Killarney, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V93 F402				
Name of Registered Provider:	Annemarie Sheehan-Doyle				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	07/11/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>21</td> <td>PM</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </table>	AM	21	PM	12
AM	21	PM	12		
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 Lamha Beaga is a privately operated early years service providing a sessional service. The service provides 2 sessions between the hours of 9 am and 12 mid-day and 12.15pm to 3.15 pm. The service is registered to care for children aged between 2 years and 6 years and is currently catering for children aged between 2 years 8 months and 4 years.

Staffing

There are currently 5 adults employed in the service that includes the registered provider and a named person to provide relief cover as is required. The 5 adults had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6 and above.

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 registered provider, 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 person who can deputize as required. The registered provider was available on the premise to facilitate the inspection process.
(b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the registered provider and the named deputy are on the premises.
- (2) The registered provider confirmed that 5 adults were employed in the service and the recruitment records in relation to these 5 adults were inspected.
 - (a) 9 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
 - (b) 1 written validated reference was 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) Not applicable as the adults in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The 5 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) The children attending the service on the day of inspection were aged between 2 years 8 months and 4 years. In the morning session there were 2 adults working with 21 children s until 11.45 am when a 3rd adult as rostered worked with the children, there were 3 adults working with 12 children for the duration of the afternoon session.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(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

- On arrival to the service the inspector observed the children were playing in the outdoor classroom and played there for the duration of the session.
- The children were dressed in outdoor playsuits and hats. The suits were individual to each child and they are kept on the premise on an accessible rail.
- Children were encouraged to put on and take off their coats, hats and outdoor play suits and wellingtons, the adults were on hand to assist the children that required help. The inspector observed these tasks were unhurried and the children were allowed to progress at their own pace. The children expressed much excitement and enthusiasm in the preparation for going outdoors.
- The inspector observed the children attending had free movement in the outdoor classroom, and within the designated enclosed outdoor play area located at the rear of the premise.
- The enclosed secured outdoor play area had a variety of fixed and movable play equipment and materials, ride on toys, playhouses, a tunnel and areas under the trees for digging and exploring. The rear perimeter of the area had a variety of trees and shrubs with fairies and fairy houses scattered throughout. It was evident the registered provider frequently develops the area, providing additional play materials and toys.
- The inspector observed the children played happily with the toys and play materials that were available and accessible to them on the open shelving in the classroom.
- An adequate number of child sized tables and chairs were in place which the children used for various tabletop activities and ate their food at mealtimes.
- The parents/guardians of the children attending supplied the food consumed at the mealtime observed. A variety of fruit, crackers, sandwiches and yogurts was consumed during the mealtime.
- The children were afforded ample time to eat their food in a relaxed environment where the adults assisted with opening lunch boxes with appropriate cutlery for example.

- Conversations ensued during the mealtime between the children and the adults for example about the food items they had and the sound the rain was making on the overhead roof.
- On speaking with the adults healthy eating is promoted in the service in line with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service.
- Children had access to their re-usable water bottles located in the respective cubbies and drinking water was available at the sinks to top up the bottles as required.
- The adults responded to children's individual cues for comfort and re-assurance and demonstrated a knowledge of each child's individual needs working in partnership with the parents/guardians.
- The adults interacted in a positive way with the children for example they sat at children's level, maintained eye contact, demonstrated empathy and a good understanding of each child and were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located adjacent to the indoor playroom.
- The children were encouraged and supported to become more independent in toileting practices.
- The children were observed happily and ably assisting the adults tidying up after activities and returning toys and floor matting for example indoors.

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 entrance gate to the outdoor and indoor classrooms was secure.
- No flexes or cables were observed within the reach of the children in the outdoor classroom where they played.
- Grapes that were cut in half were consumed by some children at the mealtime observed.
- The designated outdoor play area was fully enclosed and secure.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43 degrees Celsius was provided at the wash hand basins.

Infection Control:

- The children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet, after playing outdoors and prior to eating.
- Protective aprons were provided for children partaking in messy play activities.

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 in a high-level cupboard in the in the playroom kitchenette.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults at all times 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) A template was in place for recording the fire drills that had taken place in the service.

(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 was 04/11/2022 and the firefighting equipment was March 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the playroom.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) The records did not demonstrate that fire drills were carried out every month the service was in operation. It was acknowledged that following the inspection, the registered provider did submit a record and photographs of the fire drill conducted on 8/11/2023 in respect of the children attending the morning and afternoon sessions.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated that:

As is detailed in the report a full fire drill was carried out for the morning and afternoon sessions on 8/11/'23. A mobile phone reminder message has been set up. The fire drill record is placed in a clearly visible on a clearly visible cupboard in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

The record to record the fire drills.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

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 31/08/'24