

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonraí Na Nog
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Shannonvale Complex, Shannonvale, Old Cratloe Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 P3C2
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Yvonne O'Sullivan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	100	PM	34
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Browne
<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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

## Description of service

Naíonra Na Nog is a private sessional service located in Shannonvale Complex, Old Cratloe Road , Limerick.

The service provides morning and afternoon sessions and is open Monday-Friday, 08.45hrs – 12.00hrs and 12.00hrs-15.15hrs.

There are 110 pre-school children presently registered to attend the service.

## Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge who has responsibility for managing the service each day. There are 17 staff employed to work directly with the children at the service.

Each staff employed at the school have achieved an award in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff engage regularly in ongoing and continuous professional development training.

There are two additional staff to cover clerical duties and maintenance work.

## 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 and safety. The inspection 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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 providers were present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider and the deputy manager were present in the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)(a) All staff files were reviewed. Two written and validated references from past employers were available for many of staff working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not obtainable for staff members, references from sources other than past employers were available instead.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff working at the service. All vetting disclosures were dated within the last 3 years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 2 staff member who had lived outside the state for longer than 6 months.

(4) All adults working directly with children held the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there were 100 pre-school children and 15 staff on the premises working across 5 playrooms for the morning sessional service. The registered provider was on the premises and available for cover if required.

There were 36 preschool children and 10 staff available working across 4 playrooms for the afternoon sessional service.

The adult child ratio was correct overall in the facility.

### 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 ensured that each child's learning and development was facilitated within the daily life of the service. A healthy eating policy was in place and children brought a healthy snack each day with them to the preschool. Children's drinks were stored on low level shelving in each preschool room and were accessible to the children at all times. Drinks were taken outside to the play area when children were outdoors if required.

The children were observed going the bathroom on their own however staff were always within close distance of the children. Help was offered if required. Nappy changing facilities were available to the children who required it. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were accessible in the bathrooms to ensure hygienic washing of hands.

A couch with soft cushions was located in the library corner of each room. This provided the children with a rest space if they needed quiet time away from the general play areas. Where children presented with additional needs, individual care plans were developed. Individual goals and progress reports were documented and evidence of regular communication with parents and other professionals were noted in writing.

Children had daily access to a garden containing lots of natural play materials. Opportunities to run, climb, crawl and balance were available in this space, with low level climbing frames, tunnels, slides, planting areas and garden seats all accessible to the children. Children also had access to two halla rooms for gross motor play including small group activities and a sensory room for children to have some quiet time away from the main playroom.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The indoor environment in each of the playrooms was well laid out with a good range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences for the children. Low level tables and chairs provided a space for the children for tabletop activities and for dining at mealtimes. Play equipment and materials were displayed on open low-level shelving and were grouped to provide specific interest spaces. Some of the areas included a construction area, a home corner equipped with a play kitchen, food props, dolls and prams, an imagination play area with dress up clothes, a rest /relaxation reading corner with a soft couch located next to a book stand, an art/craft area and a sensorial and messy play area. Children's family photographs and educational posters were displayed on the walls of each room at children's eye level.

The outdoor area of the service offered the children space for physical play, for movement and for exploration. The garden was designed with a variety of natural materials and encouraged the children to learn about safe risk, to complete obstacles, to improve balance and co-ordination and to explore nature through planting and gardening.

## 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)(a) A record in writing was kept of fire drills that took place in the premises and the fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The date of the last fire drill was 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises were in date and serviced annually. The smoke alarm system was serviced on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 and the firefighting equipment was serviced in September 2024.
- (4) The notice of the fire drill procedure was displayed in the playrooms of the service