

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK132
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Nead Na Nog
-------------------------	-------------

Address of Service:	South Liberties GAA Club House, Raheen, Ballyneety, Co. Limerick
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	V947P65
-----------------	---------

Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Shanahan
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	14/02/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	4
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

This private sessional service was established in 2005. It operates a morning session from 08:15 – 11:45 hours and an afternoon session from 12.00 – 15.00 hours, Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service is operated from the Gaelic Athletic Association clubhouse in a rural setting. The children have access to a pre-school room, the hall, sanitary accommodation areas and outdoor play facilities on the all-weather surface and the main sports field. The service offers a play-based curriculum through the medium of Irish.

Staffing

The registered provider and 2 other adults work in the service. The registered provider holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 9. The other two adults working with the children hold awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 and 7.

The adults engaged in ongoing professional development including first aid training.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,25,26 and 28.

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.

Additional Information

Not Applicable

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

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.

(6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who-

- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
- (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date.

(6A) is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme.”

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was the person in charge and a named person to deputise as required was available.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived.

There were no new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection of 03/11/2020. All staff files were rechecked on this inspection of the service.

(2)(a) Two written references from past employers were available for all three staff members. The registered provider of the service had validated references that were on file.

(b) Written and verified references from sources other than past employers were available where required.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all staff members.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All three staff working directly with the children attending the service held an award in early childhood care and education ranging from Level 6 to level 9 on the national qualifications framework.

(6)(a) Staff had childcare qualifications.

(b) Letters from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) did not apply to them before that date were not required as staff had qualifications.

(6)(a) There was 1 member of staff employed in the service through an outside agency.

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) An adequate number of staff were working directly with the children for the morning sessional service and the afternoon sessional service.

There were 20 pre-school children aged 2 years 8 months - 5 years being supervised by 3 staff for the morning sessional Early Childhood Care and Education service. There were 4 pre-school children aged 2 years 8 months - 5 years being supervised by 3 staff for the afternoon sessional Early Childhood Care and Education service service.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*

(c) an authorised person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 5 children records were inspected and the following information was contained on each child's record.

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) (i)

(3) Each record of a preschool child was open for inspection by

(a) A parent or guardian in relation to a record relating to their child.

(b) An employee.

(c) An authorised person.

(4) The registered provider advised the inspectorate that all preschool records were retained for 2 years from the date the child stopped attending the service.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, a selection of fruit, crackers and drinks of water. Drinking water was available throughout the session if a child needed a drink. The children sat together around the lunch table and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food.

All of the children were toilet trained and toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it.

Adults were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using a soft tone of

voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow.

The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

This sessional service was operated from one room and sanitary accommodation areas and facilities for outdoor play were available.

Adequate and varied play equipment including sensory play materials suited to the age and stage of development of the child were available in the service.

The Preschool room was spacious and bright with shelving available to display play equipment. Defined interest areas included a reading area, construction area, home corner, puzzles, manipulative play area, table top area, and small world area.

The curriculum was emergent based and followed childrens choices. Valentine cards had been made by the children for their parents.

During the inspection children were observed to play outside for 30 minutes.

Childrens bags and coats were hanging on coat hooks and easily identifiable with each childs picture and name on it.

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) There was 1 staff working at the service who had up to date first aid response training and the remaining 2 staff had up to date first aid training.

- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available and easily accessible on site in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place on 14/01/2023.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in September 2022. A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms serviced on 03/03.2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance available for the number of children attending the service.