

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:	V94 7P65
-----------------	----------

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

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

Date of Inspection:	20/04/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	5
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This registered sessional service was established in 2005. It operates a morning session from 08:45 – 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 two additional staff work in the service each day.

All three staff working in the service have childcare qualifications.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4) – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - (1) - Staffing levels

Regulation 15 -(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) (g)(h)(i) Record of pre-school child

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health, welfare and development of the child

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of the child

Regulation 2525(1)(2)(a)(b) - First aid

Regulation 26(1)(a)(b)(4) - Fire safety measures

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice 1801 IAN	20/04/2026	Evidence of Garda Vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to children.
Status	21/04/2026 Response received and accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.	
Improvement Notice 1861 IN	20/04/2026	Garda Vetting was not dated within the last three years for two staff.
Status	21/04/2026 Response received and accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.	

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 was a named person in charge, and a deputy was available to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection the person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that the person in charge or the deputy were available on the premises each day.

(2) The files of 3 staff members working in the service were reviewed.

(a) There were 5 written references submitted by staff from previous employers on file of which 3 had been validated.

(b) There was 1 written and validated reference submitted by staff from sources other than past employers.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for two of the three staff employed to work in the service.

The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to Regulation 23 in the body of the report.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no member of staff had resided outside of jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The three staff members present on the day had appropriate childcare qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) There were 2 written references submitted by staff from previous employers on file which had not been validated.

(c) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice 1801 IAN served.

(3) All vetting procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not completed prior to staff being appointed or allowed access to or contact with children who attended the pre-school service. Allowing staff access to children who have not been appropriately vetted may impact on the care provided to them.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) References have been validated, signed and dated.

(3) The recruitment policy has been reviewed and updated. All staff will provide the following documents before they commence employment; application form on file, 2 references (verified by phone call, dated and signed), proof of qualifications. proof of ID and Garda Vetting completed by National Vetting Bureau.

Supporting documentation submitted

Recruitment policy.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 3 staff working with and supervising 21 preschool children present in the morning session. There were 2 staff working with and supervising 5 preschool children present in the afternoon session.

The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 records for preschool children were reviewed and all contained the following details i.e. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) and (i).

- (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.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(h) Each of the 10 records for preschool children did not contain the dates immunisations were administered.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(h) The service is committed to promoting the health, safety and well-being of all children by maintaining accurate and up to date immunisation records. A message has been sent out to all parents/guardians to review current immunisation status and to provide updated documentation with dates.

To ensure all immunisation records remain accurate and up to date, checks on all files will be carried out. Parents are requested to provide immunisation details with dates on enrolment.

The records will then be reviewed three times a year and also when a new child starts in the setting. A designated staff member will be responsible for: monitoring updates and ensuring all records are maintained appropriately.

Supporting documentation submitted

Not required.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements of regulation 15(1)(h).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS

The learning, development and wellbeing of each child was supported and evident during both sessions of the service.

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 yogurts. Drinking water was available throughout the session if a child needed a drink.

All of the children were toilet trained and toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. Pictures, word reminders and hand-washing instructions were displayed in the sanitary accommodation which supported hygienic hand washing and prevention of cross infection between children and between staff.

Staff were observed to listen attentively to each child and spoke to them using a soft tone of voice and used positive language, engaging children in conversations and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves.

Children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow. The staff 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 with sanitary accommodation areas and facilities for outdoor play available.

Adequate and varied play equipment including sensory play materials such as sand and water were available in the service and observed to be used by groups of children on the day.

Children had access to a wide range of play activities set up at different tables which included building blocks, craft making, colouring blank sheets of paper and playing with animals. Children were observed to move freely

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

from one play station to the next to explore the different activities. The environment was flexible and responsive to the changing interests of the group.

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, tabletop area and small world area. Children were observed to migrate to the rest area in their own time and choose books to flick through and look at the pictures which supported their language development.

Children were encouraged to manage their own personal care such as putting on and taking off their coats and placing their bags on the hooks provided. Childrens bags and coats were hanging on coat hooks and easily identifiable with each childs picture and name on it which supported their sense of independence and self care. The curriculum which was displayed was through the medium of Irish, was based on childrens emergent interest and followed childrens choices.

During the inspection children were observed to play outdoors for 45 minutes in a secured safe outdoor space whilst supervised by two staff.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice 1861.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) Of the three staff present on the day of the inspection there was no member of staff who held current certification in first aid responder (FAR) for children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) FAR training has been completed by the registered provider and has an expiry date of 24/04/2028. A staff member has been assigned to maintain the training record log which will track certifications, expiry dates and refresher training. The first aid box will be checked monthly to ensure compliance with the preschool regulations.

Supporting documentation submitted

Training record log.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements of regulation 25.

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 26/03/2026.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in November 2025 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises. The wired smoke alarm was serviced in November 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children in attendance.