

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015LK151

Name of Service Scoil Na Nóg

Address of Service: Croagh Village, Co. Limerick, V94 KW90

Email Address: claremullane@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Clare Mullane

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Sessional to Part time Service
Change number of children to 26

Proposed Number of Children: 26

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change from sessional to part time, based on floor space maximum of 24 part time children can attend, max 26 on sessional basis.

Registered change: Change in service type from Sessional to Part Time
Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 26 (Max 24 Part Time)

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 4 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: M. Riordan

Title: EYI

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Offices, 2nd Floor, Estuary House
Henry Street,
Limerick

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status: Registered Part Time Service for 26 Children (Max 24 Part Time)
Date of Registration 6th June 2024

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Scoil Na Nóg is a private sessional pre-school service operating from a modified premises in the village of Croagh in County Limerick. The pre-school is open from 9.00am to 12.00md, Monday to Friday. The service has a capacity to cater for 22 children at any one time. A service for school aged children operates each afternoon.
Premises	The service operates from 1 large pre-school room which is carefully planned and well-resourced for providing a pre-school programme. A large enclosed outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider is the designated person in charge of running the pre-school. There are 2 additional staff employed to work at the service. All staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

Requirement met:

The following requirements have been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge of the service and a named person to deputise has been appointed as required.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has identified a minimum 3 staff members who will be on the premises at all times and evidenced this with a proposed staffing roster for the service.

(8)(b) Not applicable as the proposed service is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

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- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or
 - (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:	<p>The following requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities were provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The preschool room was bright and spacious and well laid out with various equipment and play materials on open, low level shelving units.</p> <p>(2)(a) The service has its own outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and is equipped with a wide range of play materials. The area has an impact absorbent surface. A sheltered area outside is also accessible.</p> <p>(3)(a)(b) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>The following requirement has not been met.</p> <p>(1)(b) There was only 1 low level bed available if children attending the service for part time hours needed a rest following the sessional period. Adequate and suitable rest facilities must be available for preschool children to rest during the day if required.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1)(b) The number of low-level beds available to the children has been increased to 3 beds. A rest area is also available on a large couch if a child is tired and requires a rest period in the afternoon.</p> <p>All preschool children will have left the premises by 1pm which is prior to the commencement of the school aged children's service.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The response from the provider is adequate to meet the outstanding requirements of the regulation.</p>

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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.

Requirement met:	The following requirement has been met. A healthy eating policy is in place. A kitchen area is available in the service with facilities for storing perishable foods and for the preparation of hot snacks. The service will provide a breakfast to children who arrive early. The parents will provide a fruit snack for the mid-morning break. A hot meal will be provided and served to the children who will stay for part time care when the sessional service has ended.
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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.

Requirement met:	The following requirements have been met. External doors were adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The entrance door was locked with the key accessible to adults only. Outdoors a large, locked gate prevented unauthorised access to or exit from the outdoor play area. An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The policy and the associated procedures detailed all measures to reduce the likelihood of infection spreading in the facility. Cleaning programmes were in place to ensure a good standard of operational hygiene was in place.
Requirement not met:	The following requirement has not been met. 1. Cleaning equipment was stored in the adult toilet. Facilities must be in place for the safe storage of all cleaning equipment. 2. Bins were available in the Preschool room but not all bins in the service were foot pedal operated. These are required to ensure appropriate storage and disposal of all waste in the service.
Response from Provider:	1. The adult toilet has been cleared of all storage materials. 2. Foot pedal bins have been purchased to ensure the safe disposal of all waste at the service.
Summary Comment:	The response from the provider is adequate to meet the outstanding requirements of the regulation.

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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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

- (1) Certification was available to evidence that a person trained in first aid was available at all times in the service.
- (2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and stored in a conspicuous location in the premises.

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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) Fire drills take place once a month. Written documentation was available to support this practice.
- (b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers in the service. The extinguishers were serviced last in November 2023.

Requirement not met:

The following requirement has not been met.

- (b) There was a no record available to indicate the maintenance of the smoke alarms in the service.

Response from Provider:

1(b) A fire safety test was completed on the 1st of March 2024. A certificate has been issued to state that the servicing of the smoke alarms and extinguishers are in date.

Summary Comment:

The response from the provider is adequate to meet the outstanding requirements of the regulation.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The following requirements has been met.

- (a) The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) There was one entrance door to the service which was appropriately safe and secure with a lock in situ. The outdoor area was secure to prevent a child exiting the area unsupervised.
- (c) The service was adequately lit with lots of natural light available in all areas. Oil central heating was available when needed and checks were kept of the surface temperature of all radiators. Adequate ventilation was in place through openable windows in all areas of the building.
- (d) Cleaning schedules were in place in the service.
- (e) There was a sufficient number of toilets and wash hand basins in the service for the proposed number of children to attend the service.

Requirement not met:

The following requirements have not been met.

- (b)
 1. There was an outdoor storage shed that was unlocked and was accessible to children.
 2. The timber gate used to subdivide the outdoor area was not secure and stable when opened.
- (d)
 3. Broken toys and old play equipment were stored next to the outdoor play area. This area needed to be cleaned to reduce the risk of pest infestation in the outdoor areas.
 4. Walls indoors in the Preschool room and the sanitary accommodation required repainting with evidence of wear and tear on the paintwork and on the surface of the timber shelving units.

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	(e) 5. There was no facility for nappy changing available in the service if required.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new door has been fitted on the outdoor storage shed. 2. The timber gate has been secured with a new safety hook fitted. 3. All broken toys have been removed from the area next to the outdoor play area. 4. All areas internally are to be painted during the summer holiday period. 5. The service state that children will not be registered to attend until they are toilet trained.
Summary Comment:	<p>The response from the provider is adequate to meet the requirements 1-4 of the regulation.</p> <p>The provision to provide a nappy changing facility will be required if a child is in attendance who is not toilet trained.</p>

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:	<p>The following requirement was met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) An area of 56.73 square metres in the preschool room was available. This was sufficient to increase the number of children attending from 22 sessional children to 26 sessional children or a maximum of 24 part time children. (2) The preschool room had adequate clear floor space for a service that provides part-time and sessional care for children aged 2 years and 8 months to six years. (3) Not applicable.
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| | <p>(4) There was adequate floor space to accommodate children to attend both a sessional and a parttime basis at any one time.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</p> |
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