

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK151
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Scoil Na Nóg
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Croagh Village, Croagh, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 KW90
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Claire Mullane
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	15/09/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Estuary House, Henry Street Limerick.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### 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. 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 at Level 8.

### 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/ premises and facilities. 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, 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 was present on the day of the inspection. There was a person available to deputise if needed.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the registered provider or their deputy were always available on the premises.

(2)(a) Two written references were available for each staff working at the service.

(b) All references were from previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the registered provider and all staff working at the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had living in another state, for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The registered provider and each staff at the service held an appropriate 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that at all times there was a sufficient number of adults working at the service.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 13 pre-school children under the supervision of the registered provider and 2 additional staff. The adult/child ratio was correct in the facility.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of children's registration forms were viewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars documented on the form:
- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
  - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service.
  - (c) provision to record 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 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 received by the child.
  - (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) all documents and records relating to references and Garda and police vetting obtained under Regulation 9(2) are retained for a period of 5 years from the date on which the person to whom the document or record relates commences working in the service, and*
- (b) a record referred to in subparagraph (h), (j) or (k) of 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, or in the case of a preschool service in a drop-in centre or of a temporary pre-school service, for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The registered providers ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of each employee working at the service. These were displayed on the notice board at the entrance to the service.
- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility is registered to provide services.
- (c) Details of the adult: child ratios in the service.
- (d) The type of care or programme provided in the service. This was clearly displayed on the wall of the school near the entrance for parents to read.
- (e) The facilities available.
- (f) The opening hours and fees.
- (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10 and were found to be comprehensive and detailed.
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.
- (i) Rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.
- (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child 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, and

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

### Compliance Information

#### **BASIC NEEDS:**

A healthy eating policy was available at the service and children brought a healthy snack each day with them to the preschool. Drinking water was accessible to the children at all times.

All children were toilet trained and were independently using the bathroom facilities next to the preschool room. Individual towels were used by the children for hand drying. These were easily accessible to the children on individual labelled hooks next to the toilet facilities. Tissues and wipes were always accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in lidded bins. Separate adult sanitary accommodation was also available. Large soft couches with cushions and soft mats were available indoors for children to rest if required. Rest areas were also noted in the outdoor area.

Children had access to an outdoor play area at the rear of the premises. Doors to the outdoor spaces remained open at all times, allowing children choose where they wanted to play.

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

The pre-school operates from a large spacious playroom indoors and from a well-resourced outdoor play space at the rear of the building. The indoor and the outdoor environment were welcoming and safe and provided a good range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences for the children. Indoors all play equipment and materials were grouped to provide specific interest areas and appealing places for children to explore. There was an art and craft space with lots of paints, brushes and paper accessible, a library area next to a large soft couch and a well-stocked bookshelf, a home corner and a lots of imaginative play equipment. Topics of interest were located at the children's eye level throughout the room. Posters with "All about me" were displayed on the walls with family photographs attached. Play materials were stored in clear plastic containers and were clearly labelled and stored on low level shelving to promote children's independence. Toys and equipment were rotated from higher shelves when needed. Low level tables and chairs were accessible for tabletop activities and for dining at mealtimes.

Children spend long periods of times outdoors and the door to the outside remained opened at all times. Lots of covered spaces and sheltered areas were available outside facilitating outdoor play in all weather conditions. Ride on tractors, bubble cars and bikes were available outside. Large picnic tables and chairs facilitated children been able to dine outside when weather was favourable.

A large climbing frame with slides, ladders, climbing wall and play areas included was in the centre of the playground. Rubber matting outside ensured safety for the children when using the playhouse and slides. Lots of sandboxes and mud kitchens outdoors provided children with hours of enjoyment at the service. A large wooden shed was available for the storage of outdoor toys and for an additional play space in colder weather. A staff member was observed outside at all times during the session.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Each child on arrival is checked in by a staff member at the service. Children are signed out of the service at home time. Accurate daily records were maintained of all children present at the facility.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (a) The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally.
- (b) All areas appeared safe and secure. The door to the school was locked and staff at the service must allow access to all people into the building. A regular risk assessment and safety check of the premises is completed by the registered provider.
- (c) All room were adequately lit and heated.
- (d) All areas of the service internally appeared clean and well maintained.
- (e) The service had adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation for the number of children and adults who attended.