

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH042
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Daoine Oga Childcare Centre
-------------------------	-----------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Beechmount Home Park, Navan, Co. Meath
----------------------------	--

<b>Eircode:</b>	C15 WCP7
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marie Daly
-------------------------------------	------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
----------------------	---------------------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	28/10/2025
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	45	PM	38
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Cunningham & D Murray
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### 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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Navan Community Childcare CLG. is a community based childcare service located in an industrial estate within the local community in Navan. This service was established in 2009 by the Crann Support Group facilitating full day care, part time and sessional pre-school service for children aged 0-6 years. The facilities also include an outdoor preschool and a school aged service. The service operates from 7.45am-6.00pm each weekday. There are five care rooms indoors, the Nursery, 1-2 Room, 2-3 Room, Junior Preschool Room, and the Indoor Preschool. An Outdoor Pre-School is available catering for children who wish to avail of a pre-school in the outdoor environment. In addition to the outdoor pre-school, outdoor play areas are available and directly accessible from the individual care rooms except the Indoor Preschool room who use the outdoor play area to the front of the building. Children were present in the designated school aged room due to the holiday period.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly in the service and employs a manager, deputy manager and two assistant manager and sixteen childcare practitioners who all work directly with the children. Additionally, four staff who work with school aged children only, one receptionist, three staff employed in the kitchen, a bus driver and bus escort are also employed. On the day of inspection eighteen staff members were present who provider direct care to pre-school children, three staff who work with school aged children only, a receptionist, and two kitchen staff which includes the chef. The Manager and assistant manager was present on the day of inspection and had a named person available to deputise as required.

### 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 9 management and recruitment, Regulation 11 staffing levels, Regulation 19 health, welfare and development of child, Regulation 20 facilities for rest and play, Regulation 21 equipment and materials, Regulation 22 food and drink, Regulation 23 safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, Regulation 24 checking in and out and record of attendance, Regulation 25 first aid, Regulation 26 fire safety measures, and Regulation 28 insurance. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the nursery room, 1-2 room, 2-3 room and the junior preschool room. This inspection did not include the indoor preschool room and outdoor preschool room.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

(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.

(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.
- (2) Thirty staff files were reviewed.
- (a) & (b) Two written and validated references were available for each of the staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

which were sought within the required three-year timeframe.

(d) Police vetting was required and was available for ten staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All staff members who provided direct care to children all held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6A) One staff member was employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

Police vetting obtained for the staff member.

Review procedure regarding vetting from other countries, all vetting carried out prior to a person been employed.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Police vetting submitted to the Inspectorate for the staff member.

### Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 9.

## 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times*

### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) In total 15 staff cared directly for 45 children. The manager and three relief staff provided relief for breaks and nappy changing.

The adult/child ratio was correct as detailed below.

**Nursery Room:** One adult cared for 1 child aged 9 months attending for full day care.

- **1 – 2 Room:** Two adults cared for 5 children aged between 1 year and 2 years, all children attended for full day care. An additional child joined the room at 2pm.
- **2 –3 Room:** Two adults and a student cared for 10 children aged between 2 years and 3 years, of which 6 children attended for full day care and 4 children attended part-time care.
- **Junior Preschool Room:** One adult cared for 5 children aged between 2 years and 3 years, of which 4 children attended for full day care and 1 child attending part time care.
- **Indoor Pre-School Room:** Three adults (one adult provided AIM support) cared for 11 children aged between 3 years and 4 years, of which 9 children attended for full day care and 2 children attending part time care.
- **Outdoor Pre-school:** Three adults cared for 13 children aged between 3 years and 5 years, of which 12 children attended for full day care and 1 child attended part time care. An additional staff member commenced work from 11am to 3pm to assist with transitions and staff breaks.

(8) Two staff members were present at all times in the service as confirmed by the staff roster.

### 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 of the Infants and Children:

- The staff member in the Nursery care room was observed sitting in the adult chair feeding a baby. In discussion, the staff member stated that the parent's/guardians send in labelled bottles of milk which are stored in the fridge until required, they are then heated and are not left out for any longer than two hours and then discarded.
- Independence skills were promoted and children in the care rooms were observed being encouraged to put on their jackets for outdoor play, staff were available to assist children who required help with zips.
- Bibs were observed on children in the Nursery and 1-2 room for children when eating their food.
- Nappy changing with the younger children was carried out regularly and promptly and children in the older care rooms were observed accessing the sanitary area independently. Staff were available to provide assistance, if required.
- Staff were noted to be sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviour, getting down to the child's level and explaining about turn taking with equipment.
- All children were observed enjoying energetic, imaginative outdoor play with both their peers and staff members. All children had wellington boots and all-weather suits to protect their clothing.

##### Supporting Relationships Around the Children:

- During mealtimes staff were observed sitting at tables engaged in social conversation with the children. Staff were sitting at the children's level helping children to feed themselves and encouraging others to use their cutlery independently where appropriate. Good practice in managing settling in and transitions were observed in the service. In conversation, staff stated that children who were settling in were commencing with shorter hours leading to longer days, also children transitioning to another room within the service. The inspectors observed staff providing additional support and comfort at times throughout the morning, particularly during sleep times. In all care rooms staff stated a few methods of

communication are used to exchange information with parents/guardians. Examples included an electronic application on the care room tablet where staff record each child's food intake, toileting and sleeping requirements for each day in real time. Staff stated they speak to parents/guardians at drop and collection.

- Halloween was the theme of the month, and children were observed painting pumpkins and participated in colouring related artwork. The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed on the wall in the care rooms. This visual representation of children and value of their work supports children to feel a sense of identity and belonging in their care environments.

### 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-*

*(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.*

*(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,*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b) The Nursery cot room had 5 cots for children under 2 years requiring sleep. The 1 – 2 room had 10 cots for children under 2 years requiring sleep. Stackable beds were placed on the floor for the children over 2 years to sleep on in the 2 - 3 room. Within the care rooms there were soft furnishings, mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest, if needed.

(3)(a) An outdoor space was located in front of the building and to the back of the building which was enclosed with fencing, and secure side gates.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service was equipped with adequate and suitable furniture and play equipment and materials to meet the needs of the children as demonstrated by the following examples:

- In the five indoor care rooms the play materials and equipment were positioned on low level shelving to enable the children to select and replace items of interest.
- The care rooms in the service were spacious and enabled the children to move around the rooms freely. The rooms were laid out with areas of interest including dress up, dolls and buggies, construction areas, jigsaws and arts and crafts areas which supported all areas of development. There was a wide range of natural, recycled and open-ended materials to enhance the children’s play experiences.
- Throughout the care rooms there were a broad range of books available to support the children’s language development located alongside comfortable rest areas.
- The Outdoor Pre-school contained a large number of mature trees, hedging and plants, wooden teepees, large climb-through pipes, and a willow circle and tunnel which facilitated small and large group activities and hide-and-seek games. The Outdoor Pre-school was also well-resourced with a broad range of equipment and structures to support physical and energetic play. These included two climbing frames constructed in the form of a full-sized tractor made from wood with real tractor tyres and a full-sized farm trailer with climbing wall and slides attached, and wooden posts set up as balance beams. A wooden cabin equipped with books, arts and crafts supplies and a play kitchen was provided for shelter and indoor activities if required during particularly inclement weather conditions. A separate wooden cabin was set up as an enclosed covered sand hut equipped with plenty of sand and digging toys. Additionally, four of the care rooms had direct access to an outdoor area, while the indoor preschool room used the outdoor area to the front of the premises.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a 4-week menu plan with a selection of meals ranging from meat and poultry with a variety of snacks. For the children attending the service on a full day care basis, breakfast was available from 7.45am to 9:30am consisting of a choice of cereals and toast. Snack was served at 10am which consisted of toast and fruit, some of the children who attend a sessional service during term time brought in their own lunch from home. The main meal of the day was served at approximately 12md which was chilli con carne. Crackers and cheese were served at 15.00pm. Additional fruit and snacks are available for children throughout the day if required. Water was the drink of choice with individual bottles/cups for the children in the care rooms throughout the day.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

The following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- The gate entering the side entrance to the service was secured and the main door to the service was secured by a buzzer system. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- An indoor and outdoor risk assessment was conducted on a regular basis.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- All furniture and display units had a stable base with no risk of toppling identified.

##### Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The hand washing policy and nappy changing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.
- Fridges were available in the care rooms for the refrigeration of perishable items.

### Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- Temperature of the cot room was maintained between 16 to 20<sup>0</sup>C and between 18 to 22<sup>0</sup>C in the Little Scholars room while children were sleeping.
- A sleep log recording the position, colour and breathing pattern was recorded at 10 minutes intervals on all sleeping children.
- Block out blinds were available which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

## 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.*

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

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3) (a) All persons are approved by an employee prior to entry to the pre-school.

(b) Visitors are announced and approved by an authorised staff member on arrival, the visitors' details are entered into the visitors' book.

## 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) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders training and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) Records were available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in July 2025. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on 27/02/2025.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid insurance certificate for 120 preschool children with an expiry date of 27/03/2026.