Tuarascáil Rialála na Cigireachta Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Aitheantóir TUSLA:	TU2015MH080

Ainm na Seirbhíse:	Ionad Cúram Leanaí Ráthchairn

Seoladh na Seirbhíse:	Ráthcairn, Átha Buí, Co. na Mí

Ainm an tSoláthraí Chláraithe:	Ray Mac Pháidín

Cineál na seirbhíse:	Páirt-Aimseartha, Seisiúnach

Dáta na Cigireachta:	05/03/2026

Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:	AM	26	PM	11

Seoladh na Cigireachta Luathbhlianta:	Cigireacht Luathbhlianta Tusla Mol Tacaíochta Leanaí & Tuismitheoirí na Mí, Bóthar an Choimín, An Uaimh, Co. na Mí
Cigireacht arna déanamh ag:	D.Murray
Teideal:	Cigire Luathbhlianta

An tÚdarás chun Cigireacht a dhéanamh
Déanann Cigireacht Luathbhlianta Tusla cigireachtaí ar Sheirbhísí Luathbhlianta faoi Alt 58(J) den Acht um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (arna chur isteach ag Alt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013).

Coinníollacha más infheidhme	Neamhbhainteach

Cur síos ar an tseirbhís

Cuireann Ionad Cùram Leanaí Ràthchairn cúram agus oideachas páirtaimseartha agus seisiúnach ar fáil do pháistí ó 2 bhliain agus 8 mí go 5 bliana agus 6 mhí trí úsáid a bhaint as an nGaeilge. Bíonn an tseirbhís ar fáil ó 09:00 go 14:00 Luan go hAoine agus bíonn leanaí incháilithe rannpháirteach sa Chlár Cúraim agus Oideachais Luath-Óige (ECCE) ó 09:00 go 12:00. Cuirtear seirbhís d'aois scoile ar fáil freisin. Is foirgneamh aonstórach atá tógtha chun na críche é an tseirbhís ina bhfuil na seomraí seo a leanas:

Éascaíonn Seomra Glas cúram agus oideachas leanaí ó 3 go 5 bliana d'aois.

Cuireann Seomra Dearg cúram agus oideachas ar fáil do pháistí ó 2 bhliain, 8 mí agus 4 bliana d'aois.

Tá cistin/limistéar bia, seomra na gcéadfaí, seomra bheaga do ghrúpaí, seomra foirne agus áiseanna sláintíochta sa chuid eile den fhoirgneamh. Tá 3 spás lasmuigh ar an láthair agus níl ach 2 cheann á n-úsáid ag na páistí réamhscoile.

Soláthar Foirne

D'fhostaigh an soláthraí cláraithe bainisteoir, leas-dhuine i gceannas, 4 bhall foirne cúraim leanaí, 1 bhall foirne faoisimh agus 1 bhall foirne d'aois scoile. Ní oibríonn an soláthraí cláraithe sa tseirbhís.

Modheolaíocht

Is í Cigireacht Luathbhlianta Tusla an rialtóir reachtúil neamhspleách ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta in Éirinn. Sainmhínítear i Rialachán an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 an dualgas atá ar sholáthraí cláraithe sábháilteacht agus folláine leanaí a áirithiú agus na rialacháin sin a chomhlíonadh. Leis an Acht sin údaraítear Tusla chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh na rialachán freisin. Is é cuspóir na rialála maidir le seirbhísí luathbhlianta ná a áirithiú go gcloítear le cúram, sábháilteacht agus folláine na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí sin. Déantar cigireachtaí ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta a phleanáil bunaithe ar an méid seo a leanas:

- Stair na cigireachta a rinneadh roimhe
- Aon fhaisnéis a fhaightear maidir leis an tseirbhís

Tá torthaí na cigireachta bunaithe ar na nithe seo a leanas:

- Faisnéis a fhaightear trí mhionscrúdú ar cháipéisíocht
- Breathnóireacht dhíreach
- Plé leis an bhfoireann ábhartha

Níor fógraíodh an chigireacht seo agus díríodh í ar réimse an rialachais/na sláinte, an leasa agus fhorbairt na leanaí/na sábháilteachta/na n-áitreabh agus na n-áiseanna. Féadfaidh an chigireacht díriú ar réimsí eile freisin de réir mar is gá.

Déantar torthaí na cigireachta a dhoiciméadú sa tuarascáil chigireachta a eisítear den chéad uair i ndréachtfhormáid chuig an tseirbhís agus deis ann freagra a thabhairt ar aon torthaí. Nuair a shainaithnítear ceanglais reachtúla nach bhfuil á gcomhlíonadh, ní mór don soláthraí cláraithe a léiriú conas a cheartaigh sé an neamhchomhlíonadh agus conas a chinnteoidh sé nach dtarlóidh aon neamhchomhlíonadh arís. Úsáidfear an Plean um Ghníomh Ceartaitheach agus um Ghníomh Coisctheach chun bonn eolais a chur faoi chinntí maidir le comhlíonadh na gceanglas rialála. I gcás ina dteipeann ar an soláthraí cláraithe na ceanglais reachtúla a chomhlíonadh, féadfar tús a chur le próiseas géaraithe.

Forchoimeádann an chigireacht an ceart chun eagarthóireacht a dhéanamh ar na freagraí a fhaightear ar chúiseanna lena n-áirítear soiléireacht, iomláine agus comhlíonadh na bpróiseas riaracháin agus dlíthiúil.

Is é an comhlacht cigireachta a thiomsaíonn ábhar na tuarascála.

Buíochas

Is mian leis an gcigire aitheantas a thabhairt do chomhoibriú an bhainisteora, an leas-dhuine i gceannas, na foirne agus na bpáistí a bhí i láthair lá na cigireachta.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe-

(a)go mbeidh sa tseirbhís duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe agus duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú a bheidh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá,

(b)go mbeidh an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe nó an duine ainmnithe dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (a) ar an áitreabh gach tráth le linn na tréimhse ina mbeidh an tseirbhís réamhscoile á seoladh.

(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh gach fostaí, oibrí gan phá agus conraitheoir oiriúnach agus inniúil agus cineál na riachtanas atá ag leanaí á chur i gcuntas, lena n-áirítear-

(a) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhostóirí an duine san am a caitheadh, más ann, agus go háirithe ar theistiméireacht ón bhfostóir is déanaí, más ann,

(b) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhoinsí iontaofa i gcás duine nach raibh aon fhostóir aige nó aici san am a caitheadh,

(c) breithniú ar an nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin a fuarthas ó Bhiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána de réir Acht 2012 i leith an duine, agus

(d) a chinntiú, a mhéid is indéanta, go soláthróidh duine, i gcás go raibh cónaí air nó uirthi i stát seachas an Stát ar feadh tréimhse níos faide ná 6 mhí as a chéile, grinnfhiosrúchán póilíneachta ó na húdaráis phóilíneachta sa stát sin.

(4) Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (2) agus faoi réir mhíreanna (5) agus (6), go sealbhaíonn gach fostaí a bhíonn ag obair go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-óige ar Leibhéal 5 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasfaidh an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach léi sin, ar a laghad.

(6A) Ní bheidh feidhm ag mír (4) maidir le fostaí de chuid soláthraí cláraithe i gcás - (a) go bhfaigheann an soláthraí cláraithe maoiniú chun fostaíocht an fhostaí de bhun scéime atá maoinithe ag an Aire agus ar a dtugtar an tSamhail Rochtana agus Cuimsithe, agus (b) go bhfuil fostaíocht an fhostaí chuig críche tacaíocht a sholáthar, de bhun na scéime dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (a), do leanbh atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís chun a chumasú don leanbh páirt a ghlacadh sa chlár ar a dtugtar an Clár Maoinithe um Chúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige (ECCE).

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh
(1) (a) Bhí duine ainmnithe i gceannas ar an tseirbhís agus duine ainmnithe chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh de réir mar is gá. (b) Bhí duine ainmnithe i gceannas ar an áitreabh nuair a tháinig na cigirí gan fógra chun an chigireacht a dhéanamh. (2) (a)&(b) Dheineadh athbhreithniú ar naoi gcomhad foirne, lena n-áirítear an soláthraí cláraithe. Bhí ocht déag tagairtí scríofa bailíochtaithe ar fáil ó iar-fhostóir nó ó fhoinse dea-cháil. (c) Bhí nochtadh grinnfhiosrúchán an Gharda Síochána ar fáil do na 9 duine fásta. Léirigh an tseirbhís freisin gur comhlíonadh an Fógra Rialála Cigireachta Luathbhlianta lena gceanglaítear ar sheirbhísí grinnfhiosrúchán ón nGarda Síochána a athnuachan gach trí bliana. (d) Bhí grinnscrúdú póilíní ar fáil do 4 bhall foirne a raibh cónaí orthu lasmuigh den dlínse ar feadh tréimhse níos mó ná 6 mhí as a chéile mar dhaoine fásta. (4) Bhí dámhachtain mhór i gCúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige ag Leibhéal 5 agus os a chionn ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheas an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach ag gach ball foirne cúraim leanaí. (6) (a) Bhí ball foirne amháin fostaithe faoin scéim ar a dtugtar an tSamhail Rochtana agus Cuimsithe.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 11 – Leibhéil foirne
(1) Faoi réir an Rialacháin seo, áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh líon leordhóthanach daoine fásta i gcónaí ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile. *(2) Faoi réir mhíreanna (4) agus (5), cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse cúraim lae iomláin nó seirbhíse cúraim lae pháirtaimseartha go gcomhlíonfar gach tráth an cóimheas íosta idir daoine fásta agus leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (3) de Chuid 1 de Sceideal 6 os coinne uimhreach tagartha áirithe a shonraítear i gcolún (1) den Chuid sin i leith raon aoise na leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (2) den Chuid sin ag an uimhir thagartha sin.* *Gan dochar do mhíreanna (2) go (7)-* *(a) déanfaidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse réamhscoile seachas seirbhís cúraim leanaí nó seirbhís réamhscoile seisiúnach a chinntiú go mbeidh beirt dhaoine fásta ar a laghad ar an áitreabh i gcónaí.*

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh

(1) Le linn na tréimhse cigireachta bhí líon leordhóthanach daoine fásta ag obair go díreach leis na páistí a bhí ag freastal ar an tseirbhís naíonra.

(2) Ar lá na cigireachta, breathnaíodh na cóimheasa seo a leanas idir daoine fásta agus leanaí nuair a bhí an tseirbhís ag feidhmiú ag a lánacmhainneacht:

- **Bhí 3 bhall foirne ag Seomra Glas** le 20 páiste idir 3 agus 5 bliana d'aois, bhí 11 páiste ag baint leasa as an tseirbhís pháirtaimseartha agus 9 bpáiste ag freastal ar bhonn seisiúnach.
- **Bhí 2 bhall foirne ag Seomra Dearg** le 6 pháiste idir 3 agus 4 bliana d'aois, agus iad uile ag freastal ar bhonn seisiúnach.

(8) (a) De réir an liosta foirne, d'áirithigh an bainisteoir go raibh beirt daoine fásta i láthair ar an láthair i gcónaí.

Cuid V - Cúram Leanaí sa tSeirbhís Naíonra

Rialachán 19 - Sláinte, leas agus forbairt leanaí

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, le linn seirbhís réamhscoile a sholáthar-

(a) go n-éascaítear foghlaim, forbairt agus dea-bhail gach linbh laistigh de shaol laethúil na seirbhíse réamhscoile trí na gníomhaíochtaí, an idirghníomhaíocht, na hábhair agus an trealamh cuí a sholáthar, ag féachaint d'aois agus do chéim forbartha an linbh, agus

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh

(1)(a) Dheineadh na breathnóireachtaí seo a leanas ar an gcaoi ar éascaíodh foghlaim, forbairt agus folláine gach linbh laistigh den saol laethúil sa tseirbhís:

Bunriachtanais

- Breathnaíodh ar pháistí ag gabháil do ghníomhaíochtaí boird, ealaín agus ceardaíocht agus súgradh saor agus tugadh deis dóibh gníomhaíochtaí a roghnú agus a athrú más mian leo. Bhí an curaclam treoraithe ag na páistí agus ba iad téamaí na míosa i Seomra Glas ná "Ainmhithe" agus i Seomra Dearg ná "Lá Fhéile Pádraig" le scéalta ag am ciorcail agus obair ealaíne ar taispeáint chuig na téamaí seo a léiriú.
- Chuimsigh an tseirbhís súgradh faoin aer agus foghlaim. Breathnaíodh ar na páistí ag baint taitnimh as súgradh faoin aer lena gcomhghleacaithe agus le baill foirne araon. Thacaigh an fhoireann le foghlaim na bpáistí le gníomhaíochtaí a breathnaíodh a bheith spraíúil agus cruthaitheach.

- Breathnaíodh gur eispéireas sóisialta agus taitneamhach a bhí in am lóin do na páistí. Shuigh an fhoireann ag an mbord agus na páistí ag ithe, ag tabhairt comhrá leo agus ag tabhairt cabhrach do na páistí de réir mar a bhí gá leo. Cuireann na tuismitheoirí an bia go léir ar fáil dá bpáistí a bhíonn ag freastal ar an tseirbhís.
- Bhí baill foirne freagrúil do leideanna na bpáistí dá mbeadh orthu an leithreas a úsáid, agus cuireadh maoirseacht dhiscréideach ar fáil agus tugadh meabhrúcháin bheaga dóibh maidir le lámha a ní.
- D'oibrigh an fhoireann go maith le chéile mar fhoireann. Chuaigh páistí i gcomhairle le baill foirne a thug aitheantas agus spreagadh do na páistí a gcuid iarrachtaí agus éachtaí go fonnmhar.

Caidrimh tacúla le leanaí:

- Léirigh an tseirbhís meas dearfach i leith theaghlaigh na bpáistí agus cothaíodh naisc teaghlaigh sa tseirbhís le grianghraif teaghlaigh ar taispeáint sna seomraí cúraim rud a thug mothú céannachta agus muintearais dóibh. Éascaíodh an rannpháirtíocht le teaghlaigh agus tuismitheoirí trí fhaisnéis a roinnt go laethúil ag an tráth a dtabhairt isteach agus a bhailiú, agus tacaíodh leis sin ar mhodhanna leictreonacha.
- Spreag an fhoireann na páistí chun idirghníomhú go dearfach lena chéile trí rialacha sóisialta simplí a ghlacadh amhail sealaíocht, páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí súgartha agus díospóidí beaga a réiteach. Tugadh meabhrúcháin roimh ré do leanaí chun tacú le haistrithe chun gníomhaíocht nua agus le linn am béilí.

Cuid V - Cúram Leanaí sa tSeirbhís Naíonra
Rialachán 20 - Saoráidí scíthe agus súgartha
(1) Faoi réir an rialacháin seo, cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe- (b) go bhfuil saoráidí leordhóthanacha oiriúnacha ann do leanbh réamhscoile chun sos a ghlacadh i rith an lae, agus i gcás seirbhís réamhscoile thar oíche, i rith an lae agus na hoíche. (3) Déanfaidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse cúraim lae iomláin, seirbhíse cúraim lae páirtaimseartha nó seirbhís feighlíochta leanaí, seachas seirbhís den sórt sin lena mbaineann mír (2), a chinntiú go mbeidh— (a) go ndéanfar spás lasmuigh oiriúnach, sábháilte agus slán a bhfuil rochtain ag na leanaí naíonra a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís air ar bhonn laethúil a sholáthar san áitreabh nó

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh

(1)(b) Laistigh de na seomraí cúraim bhí mataí agus cúisíní ann do leanaí chun sos a ghlacadh ó ghníomhaíochtaí agus scíth a ligean más gá.

(3)(a) Roinneadh an 2 spás amuigh faoin aer a bhí in úsáid idir Seomra Glas agus Seomra Dearg. Bhí dromchla féir ar an spás lasmuigh de Seomra Glas agus bhí fál agus geata slán timpeall air.
Bhí dromchla uile-aimsire ar an spás lasmuigh amach ó Seomra Dearg agus bhí fál agus geata slán timpeall air. Bhí limistéar faoi dhídean ann a cheadaigh gníomhaíochtaí lasmuigh i ngach cineál aimsire. Ní raibh an spás lasmuigh os comhair an áitribh in úsáid lá na cigireachta.

Cuid V - Cúram Leanaí sa tSeirbhís Naíonra

Rialachán 21 – Trealamh agus ábhair

Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go bhfuil troscán, trealamh súgartha agus oibre agus ábhair leordhóthanacha agus oiriúnacha ar fáil ar áitreabh na seirbhíse réamhscoile.

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh

- Bhí na hacmhainní súgartha sna seomraí cúraim inrochtana, eagraithe agus stóráilte ar sheilfeanna rud a thug deis do na páistí ábhair a roghnú agus a athsholáthar. Bhí réimsí spéise sa seomra cúraim, ina measc limistéar baile, ciseáin ainmhithe, raca leabhar, bloic thógála plaisteacha/adhmaid, puzail, limistéar bábóg, ábhair ealaíne agus ceardaíochta lena n-áirítear tráidirí tuf céadfacha, ráille gléasta, pubaill agus cruthanna maighnéadacha.
- I measc an trealaimh sna spásanna lasmuigh bhí aonad gníomhaíochta adhmaid le dréimire dreapadóireachta, luascán agus sleamhnán, luascáin sheasta, tráidire tuf, cistin láibe, bréagáin marcaíochta, bloic thógála, boinn, cláir dhubha agus cláir ghníomhaíochta suite ar na ballaí, maide corrach agus binseáin chun gníomhaíochtaí barr boird.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht
Rialachán 23 - Sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas an linbh a chosaint
Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go ndéantar gach beart réasúnach chun sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas leanaí réamhscoile atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís a chosaint agus go bhfuil timpeallacht na seirbhíse sábháilte.
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh
Sábháilteacht Ghinearálta: Breathnaíodh na bearta sábháilteachta seo a leanas sa tseirbhís mar a léirítear sna samplaí seo a leanas: • Ar lá na cigireachta, bhí cuma shábháilte ar an timpeallacht laistigh agus lasmuigh araon. Bhí tuiscint shoiléir ag an mbainisteoir agus ag baill foirne ar a ról agus ar raon na bhfreagrachtaí atá orthu chun sláinte, sábháilteacht agus leas na bpáistí a chinntiú. Dheineadh measúnuithe riosca laistigh agus lasmuigh go laethúil.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht
Rialachán 25 - Garchabhair
(1) Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh duine atá oilte i ngarchabhair do leanaí ar fáil láithreach, i gcónaí, do na leanaí atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile. *(2) Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go ndéanfar bosca garchabhrach atá feistithe go cuí do leanaí-* *(a) go stórálfar é go sábháilte in áit atá inrochtana agus feiceálach go héasca san áitreabh, agus* *(b) go mbeidh sé ar fáil do na leanaí atá ag freastal ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile i gcónaí.*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh
(1) Thug an tseirbhís fianaise go raibh cúrsa Freagróirí Garchabhrach cothrom le dáta ag duine agus go raibh sé/sí ar fáil i gcónaí do na páistí a bhí ag freastal ar an tseirbhís naíonra. (2)(a) agus (b) Bhí bosca garchabhrach oiriúnach-fheistithe ar fáil agus stóráilte go sábháilte sna háitribh.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht
Rialachán 26 - Bearta sábháilteachta dóiteáin
(1) Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go gcoimeádfar taifead i scríbhinn- *(a) ar aon druil dóiteáin a bheidh ar siúl san áitreabh, agus* *(b) ar líon, cineál agus taifead cothabhála an trealaimh comhraicthe dóiteáin agus na n-aláram deataigh san áitreabh.* *(4) Déanfar fógra faoi na nósanna imeachta a bheidh le leanúint i gcás dóiteáin a chur ar taispeáint in áit fheiceálach san áitreabh.*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh
(1)(a) Bhí taifead scríofa ar fáil de na cleachtaí dóiteáin a dheineadh sa tseirbhís. Bhí an cleachtadh dóiteáin deireanach ar siúl ar an 10/02/2026. (b) Coinníodh taifead ar na haláraim deataigh agus ar an trealamh comhraicthe dóiteáin a bhí faoi chumhacht an phríomhlíonra ar an áitreabh. Dheineadh an tseirbhísiú deireanach ar na haláraim deataigh atá faoi chumhacht an phríomhlíonra ar an 12/04/2025. Dheineadh an tseirbhísiú deireanach ar an trealamh comhraicthe dóiteáin ar 05/04/2025. (4) Bhí fógra faoi na nósanna imeachta le leanúint i gcás dóiteáin ar taispeáint go soiléir sa halla iontrála.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht
Rialachán 28 - Árachas
Áiritheoidh soláthraí cláraithe go bhfuil árachas leordhóthanach ag an tseirbhís réamhscoile.
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh
D'áirithigh an soláthraí cláraithe go raibh an tseirbhís árachaithe go leordhóthanach do 32 leanbh a bhí ag freastal ar an tseirbhís ag aon am amháin. Léirigh an polasaí go raibh an tseirbhís árachaithe ón 28/03/2025 go dtí an 27/03/2026.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report
Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH080

Name of Service:	Ionad Cúram Leanaí Ráthchairn

Address of Service:	Ráthcairn, Átha Buí, Co. Meath

Name of Registered Provider:	Ray Mac Pháidín

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection:	05/03/2026

No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	11

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	D.Murray
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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Description of service

Ionad Cùram Leanaì Ràthchairn provides part-time and sessional care & education to children from 2 years 8 months to 5 years 6 months through the use of Irish language. The service operates from 09:00 to 14:00 hours Monday to Friday and eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme from 09:00 to 12:00 hours. A school aged service is also provided. The service is a purpose-built single storey building consisting of the following rooms:

Seomra Glass facilitates the care and education of children from 3 to 5 years.

Seomra Dearg provides care and education for children from 2 years 8 months to 4 years.

The remainder of the building consists of a kitchen/dining area, sensory room, small group room, staff room and sanitary facilities. There are 3 outdoor spaces onsite with only 2 used by the pre-school children.

Staffing

The registered provider employed a manager, deputy person in charge, 4 childcare staff, 1 relief staff and 1 school aged staff member. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 manager, deputy 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.* *(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) (a)&(b)Nine staff files were reviewed Including the registered provider. Eighteen validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 9 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All childcare staff members had 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.

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

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) During the period of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) On the day of inspection, the following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity:

- **Seomra Glass** had 3 staff with 20 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years,11 children were availing of the part-time service with 9 children were attending on a sessional basis.
- **Seomra Dearg** had 2 staff with 6 children ranging in age from 3 to 4 years all attending on a sessional basis.

(8) (a)According to the staff roster the manager ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- Children were observed engaging in tabletop activities, art and crafts and free play with children afforded the opportunity to choose and change activities if they so wish. The curriculum was child led with the themes of the month in Seomra Glass being "Animals" and in Seomra Dearg being "St Patricks Day" with stories at circle time and art work displayed to reflect these themes.
- The service embraced outdoor play and learning. Children were observed enjoying outdoor play with both their peers and staff members. Staff supported children's learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative.
- Lunch time was observed to be a social and pleasant experience for the children. Staff sat at the table whilst the children ate engaging them in conversation and provided assistance to the children as required. The parents provide all the food for their children attending the service.
- Staff members were responsive to the children's cues should they need to use the toilet, with discreet supervision provided and gentle reminders regarding hand washing.
- The staff worked well together as a team. Children sought out staff members who readily acknowledged and encouraged the children's efforts and accomplishments.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed in the care rooms which gave a sense of identity and belonging. Engagement with families and parents was facilitated by the daily sharing of information at drop off and collection which was supported by electronic means.

- The staff encouraged the children to engage positively with each other by adopting simple social rules such as turn taking, sharing in play activities and resolving minor disputes. Children were given advance reminders to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtimes.

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) Within the care rooms there were mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

(3)(a) The 2 outdoor spaces in use were shared between Seomra Glass and Seomra Dearg. The outdoor space off Seomra Glass had a grass surface and was enclosed by fencing with a secure gate.
The outdoor space off Seomra Dearg had an all-weather surface and was enclosed by fencing with a secure gate. A sheltered area permitted outdoor activities in all types of weather. The outdoor space to the front of the premises was not used on the day of the inspection.

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 play resources in the care rooms were accessible, organised and stored on shelving which allowed the children to select and replace materials. The care room had areas of interest which included a home area, animal baskets, book rack, plastic/wooden building blocks, puzzles, dolls area, art and crafts materials which included sensory tuff trays, dress up rail, tents and magnetic shapes. • Equipment in the outdoor spaces included a wooden activity unit with climbing ladder, swing and a slide, stationary rockers, tuff tray, mud kitchen, ride on toys, building blocks, tyres, blackboards and activity boards mounted to the walls, see saw and benches for table top activities.

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 observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples: • On the day of inspection both the indoor and outdoor environment appeared safe. The manager and staff members had a clear understanding of their role and range of responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children. Indoor and outdoor risk assessments were conducted on a daily basis.

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 course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 10/02/2026. (b) A record was maintained of the mains powered smoke alarms and firefighting equipment on the premises. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the12/04/2025. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in 05/04/2025. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the entrance hall.

Part VI - Safety
Regulation 28 - Insurance
A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.
Compliance Information
The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 32 children at any one time attending the service. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2025 to the 27/03/2026.