

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH141
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Bruach na h-Abhann
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Castle Street, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A84 HH60
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Maria Ní Lochnáin
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/03/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM	18
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray
<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

Naíonra Bruach na h-Abhann is a sessional Early Years service operated from one room in a single storey purpose-built premises, located to the rear of the registered provider's home. Eligible pre-school children aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 12.00 midday and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm weekdays. The premises also consists of children's sanitary facilities, store room and an outdoor space.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs 2 childcare staff members. On the day of the inspection the registered provider was present with 1 staff member.

### 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.
- (2) (a)&(b) Six validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 3 staff members. 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 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdictions for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Three 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.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) Police vetting was not available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdictions for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (2)(d) An application has been made for police vetting for the staff member who had resided outside the jurisdictions for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

### Summary Comment

The registered providers in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has not addressed the non-compliance for regulation 9 (2)(d) as police vetting has not been submitted to the Inspectorate. This non-compliance remains outstanding.

### 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the service.
- (3) On the day of inspection there were 2 adults providing care and education to 21 children ranging in age from 3 to 6 years.

### 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:

- Throughout the session children had the opportunity to move about freely and explore their environment. Children were given choices as to the area and equipment they wanted to play with. Children were observed independently selecting play materials, enjoying meaningful sustained play and replacing the materials back on the shelves when finished. The themes of the month were "St Patricks Day" and "Easter" with art work and crafts displayed to reflect these themes.

- Staff members were observed encouraging the children to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- The children brought their own healthy snack from home which they had in the outdoor heated shed where they sat at tables. The staff members provided help when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions. The service embraced outdoor play and learning.
- Transitions were handled smoothly with staff giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- The adults were observed promoting positive behaviour and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment and materials. Any child who became upset was nurtured and cuddled until they were ready to re-join the group.
- The children showed confidence around the staff members and appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.
- 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 family tree in the care room which gave a sense of identity and belonging.

## 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.

(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.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) A mat beside the reading area with children's chairs was available for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

(2)(b) The outdoor space had a grass surface and was enclosed by fencing with a secure gate.

### 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 care room had areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys. Tables and chairs in the room were appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the care room.

Equipment in the outdoor area included playhouses with additional equipment stored in a shed and containers.

### 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 main door to the service and the outdoor space were secured. These safety measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- 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 in place on the day of inspection:

- The hand washing policy was implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times. Warm running water was available in the children's sanitary area, along with a supply of liquid soap and hand paper towel for effective hand washing. Tables were cleaned after table top activities.
- The service was clean with cleaning checklist available.
- A fridge was available in the care room for the refrigeration of perishable items in the children's lunch boxes.

### Fire Safety:

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

- Regular monthly fire drills were carried out and records maintained. All fire exits were easily identifiable and unobstructed. A fire assembly notice was placed on the fence in the outdoor space.

## 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 onsite 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 09/02/2024.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced in October 2023. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 24/09/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the care room.

### 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 44 children at any one time attending the service. The policy showed that the service was insured from 01/09/2023 to the 31/08/2024.