

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015MH143 | | |
| Name of Service: | Scoil Sport Naíonra Na Ríthe Teoranta | | |
| Address of Service: | Gaelscoil Na Ríthe, Drunree Road, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath | | |
| Eircode: | A85 DY26 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Caitlin Ni Chinnéide | | |
| Service type: | Sessional | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 09/04/2024 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 18 | PM 7 |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath | | |
| Inspection undertaken by: | D. Murray & AM. Cunningham | | |
| Title: | 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). | | | |
| Conditions if applicable | Not Applicable | | |

Description of service

Naíonra Na Rithe provides a sessional service to children from 2-6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service operates from 08:50 to 11:50 am and from 12:10 to 15:10 pm weekdays and caters for 22 pre-school children at any one time. The service is located on the grounds of Gaelscoil Na Rithe National School in a prefabricated building. The service consists of 1 care room with sanitary facilities. A partially sheltered area along with 2 open outdoor space are located to the front of the main entrance door with an additional messy play area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 1 childcare staff and a relief staff member. 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,20,21, 23,25,26 and 28 these findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 co-operation 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, 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 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 disclosures were available for 3 staff members and were renewed within the last 3 year in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- (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.

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 18 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 the indoor and outdoor environment. Children were given choices as to the area and equipment they wanted to play with. Children in the outdoor sheltered area were observed independently selecting play materials, enjoying meaningful sustained play and replacing the materials back on the shelves when finished. In the outdoor spaces children enjoyed energetic and imaginary play with their peers with lots of conversation and laughter observed. The children's emerging interest for the week was "frogs" with lots of discussion between the children and staff members at story time.
- 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, 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 sheltered area. The staff members provided help when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.

- 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.
- The children showed confidence around the staff members and appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

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)(b) Mats were available in the care room for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.
- (2)(b) There was a secure outdoor sheltered area which permitted outdoor play in all types of weather. The outdoor spaces were divided into 3 area by fencing with secure gates and had wood chip surfaces.

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 and sheltered area 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 spaces included large tyres, hula hoops, black board mounted to the fence, basketball hoop, counting stand, sand table, planting pots, balls, play mats, tyre swing, building blocks, footballs and goal posts. Additional equipment was stored in boxes.

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 spaces 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:

- 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.
- A fridge was available in the care room for the refrigeration of perishable items in the children's lunch boxes.

- The service was clean with cleaning checklist available.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The following safety measures were not in place on the day of inspection:

- Garda vetting was available for 1 staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

- Childrens hands were not washed after outdoor play before eating lunch, hand sanitisers were used instead.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Garda vetting application has been made.

Infection Control:

- Childrens hands will be washed after outdoor play and before eating lunch in accordance with the service infection control policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Written proof that an application has been made for garda vetting for the staff member.

Infection Control:

- Infection control policy.

Summary Comment

The registered providers in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan is in the process of addressing the non-compliances. The inspector has accepted the assurances that handwashing will be carried out after outdoor play.

However, the non-compliance in respect of the renewed Garda Vetting remains outstanding.

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

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) No staff member had current First Aid Responder training. Although it is acknowledged that both staff members had up to date paediatric first aid training, one staff member must have completed current First Aid Responder training and be available to the children on a daily basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)A First Aid Responder training course has been booked for the registered provider. The certificate will be forwarded to the inspectorate when received.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written proof of booking dates for the 8th, 9th and 13th May 2024.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the registered provider is in the process of addressing this non-compliance for regulation 25 (1), however this non-compliance remains outstanding until evidence of FAR training is received.

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.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation*
- (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 22 March 2024.
- (b) A record was maintained of the fire fighting equipment on the premises. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced in September 2023. The smoke alarm system was due to be serviced and was serviced on the 10/04/2024, the day after the inspection with written evidence submitted to the Inspectorate.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in 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 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.