

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015MO032

**Name of Service** Naíonra Céimeanna Beaga

**Address of Service:** Gaelscoil na Cruaiche, Westport, Co Mayo, F28 R243

**Email Address:** allen7catherine@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Catherine Allen

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

<b>Proposed change:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 44 children (additional room).</li> <li>Addition of a session – one morning to two morning sessions.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	44
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	The requirements that are unmet as detailed in the report require to be addressed before the changes are approved.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Changes not approved – service to remain registered for 22 children only.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** M. Farrell  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** 2nd Floor, St. Mary’s HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Naíonra Céimeanna Beaga is in a residential area in Westport, County Mayo. The service is registered to provide sessional services to children aged between 2 and 6 years from 08:45-12:00 hours. The service is registered to provide school aged childcare services.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a dedicated section of a Gaelscoil, Irish speaking primary school. There is one playroom in operation, and it is proposed that an additional playroom is to be provided in the service. Outdoor play areas shared with the Gaelscoil are located to the rear of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	It is proposed that there will be five staff members in the service to work directly with the children including the registered provider.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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### 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.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) There is a designated person in charge in the service and a named person to deputise as needed.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

It is proposed that the minimum ratio of one adult working directly with eleven children will be in operation during the session with two adults to work directly with the proposed 22 children in the additional playground.

### 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—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) (a)</p> <p><b>Indoors:</b></p> <p>The proposed additional playroom has adequate amounts of toys and play equipment for 22 children to attend sessional services in the room. Additional play equipment for rotation in response to children’s emerging interests is stored in a storeroom in the service. Resources include kitchen/home corner items, puppet theatre, a variety of tabletop activities including puzzles with various types of construction, transport equipment and small world equipment also provided. There is an area set up with an easel for artwork with a range of art equipment supplied in the room. There is a small library area with books beside the playroom’s designated rest area. The play equipment is displayed in open accessible storage, at low levels facilitating a child-led learning environment. Tables and adequate numbers of age-appropriate chairs are provided for the children to facilitate tabletop activities, snack time and group work in the proposed playroom.</p> <p><b>Outdoors:</b></p> <p>Play equipment to encourage physical activity including ride on toys, scooters and low-level balance beams is provided in the outdoor areas. The children have access to a wooden playhouse, a sandpit area, wood hut known as the “restaurant” and mud kitchen in the outdoor spaces. Wooden seating for the children to sit on is available outdoors.</p> <p>(4) The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>There is a suitable, safe and secure outdoor play area with concrete ground cover provided for the children located to the rear of the building. This area is enclosed and has secured entrance gates.</p> <p>The service also has access to a second large outdoor space area enclosed by green metal fencing and hedging. This area has various types of ground cover including a small woodland space with grass ground cover, pebble paths and a concrete basketball court.</p>
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<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(1) (b) The soft furnishings provided in the rest area of the proposed new playroom were heavily stained and did not meet the regulatory requirements.</p> <p>(4) One of the gates leading to the larger outdoor space was inadequately secured to prevent unauthorised entry to the area and for children to leave unnoticed.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	The registered provider advised in a written response that the registration requirements form has not been returned yet as most of the work will be done over the summer. The proposed room is still being used by the school for music. The room will be completely fit for purpose during the summer.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements detailed above therefore remain unmet.

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that healthy snacks for the children in line with the service's healthy eating policy are to be provided from home for the morning snack. The service's healthy eating policy containing information and guidance on healthy foods is to be made available to parents of prospective children.</li> <li>Drinking water is to be always available to the children in the service.</li> </ul>
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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p><b>General Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The toys and equipment available in the proposed new playroom are in good condition and free from hazards. The play equipment storage units have broad stable units.</li> <li>• Blind cords on the windows of the playroom were secured with safety devices.</li> <li>• The emergency exit routes are free from obstruction.</li> <li>• Secure storage for medication is available in a cupboard in the playroom that is already in use in the service.</li> </ul> <p><b>Infection control:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a refrigerator provided in the service for the storage of perishable food items.</li> <li>• The outdoor waste storage bins are cordoned off from the outdoor play area and are inaccessible to children in the service.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p><b>General Safety</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A large number of musical instruments including bodhrans were stored on hanging systems on the walls of the proposed playroom and posed potential risks of injury to a child if dislodged.</li> <li>2. The storage units located under the sink in the playroom holding cleaning products, a rodent bait box and cutlery were unsecured posing potential safety risks to children.</li> <li>3. A microwave and toaster were stored on a workspace at a low level posing a potential safety risk to children.</li> <li>4. Some inadequately secured trailing wires were positioned beside the whiteboard on the wall of the playroom and posed potential safety risks to children.</li> </ol>

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	5. The lid on the large plastic toy storage box in the outdoor area was cracked and had sharp edges with the potential to cause an injury to a child.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	The registered provider advised in a written response that the registration requirements form has not been returned yet as most of the work will be done over the summer. The proposed room is still being used by the school for music and the musical instruments will not be removed from the room until the summer. The room will be completely fit for purpose during the summer.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements detailed above therefore remain unmet.

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Evidence of the completion of first aid training (FAR ) for children was available for a staff member in the service with an expiry date of the 28 February 2025.</p> <p>(2) (a) There is a suitably labelled equipped first aid box stored in a cupboard in the original playroom. The first aid equipment is proposed to be always available to children attending the service.</p>
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### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)
- (a) Templates are available for the written recording of any fire drills that take place in the premises.
  - (b) Records in writing are available in the service of the number, type and maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system dated the 31 August 2023. Records of the number and type of the firefighting equipment showed that the equipment was last maintained on the 16 January 2024.
- (4)
- Notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire with floor plans displaying the escape routes are displayed conspicuously in the service.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

#### Requirement met:

(a) No obvious defects were observed in the building structure.

#### (c) Lighting:

There is both natural light from windows and artificial lighting provided in the proposed additional playroom and sanitary area that is adequate and suitable for the provision of a childcare service. The light fittings in this playroom and in the sanitary areas are encased with protective covers.

#### Heating:

The heating is provided by radiators heated by an oil fuel central heating system. During the inspection the air temperature in the playroom was recorded at 19.6°C and the sanitary areas at 19.0- 20°C which are within the required ranges of 18- 22°C for these areas.

#### Ventilation:

There are openable windows in the playroom and sanitary areas to allow ventilation of these spaces.

(d) There are cleaning schedules and cleaning recording templates in place for all areas of the service. The proposed playroom and sanitary areas are clean. The service has a pest control servicing contract in place.

(e) Two sanitary units with one toilet and one wash hand basin each are provided off the proposed playroom for use by the children. The staff sanitary unit is shared with the staff in the Gaelscoil and holds two toilets and wash hand basins. The hot water temperatures of all the wash hand basins were recorded below 43°C on the day of the inspection. Paper towel and liquid soap is provided at each wash hand basin.

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<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(b) The entrance door to the proposed new playroom did not have a working securing device in place to prevent children from leaving the area or prevent people from entering the room without authorisation.</p> <p>(e) The waste bin provided in the adult sanitary unit was not a foot pedal operated bin as required.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	The registered provider advised in a written response that the registration requirements form has not been returned yet as most of the work will be done over the summer. The proposed room is still being used by the school for music. The room will be completely fit for purpose during the summer.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements detailed above therefore remain unmet.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

*(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The clear floor space in the proposed additional playroom measured 65 square metres which could accommodate the proposed 22 additional children, with a total of 44 children proposed to attend the service.</p> <p>(3) The minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear space is available for the proposed 22 children attending sessional services in the additional playroom.</p>
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