

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015MO044

Name of Service: Glór na Nóg -Aghamore Community Childcare

Address of Service: Killeen, Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo F35 AE65

Email Address: glornanog@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Sonia Walsh

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated: from 42 Sessional (33 FDC) to 44 Sessional (52 FDC)

Proposed Number of Children: Maximum of 52 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Maximum of 54 children as follows:
 Toddler playroom: 10 children.
 Junior Preschool Playroom: 11 children.
 Senior Preschool Playroom: 33 children attending sessional services with a maximum of 32 children attending full day care services.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 42(Max 33 FDC) to 54 children

Date of Inspection:	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: M. Farrell

Title: Early Years Inspector

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St Mary's HQ, Castlebar, Co Mayo.
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 54 Children
Date of Registration	4th February 2025

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).

Description of Service	Glór na Nóg -Aghamore Community Childcare is a community, non-profit service located in Aghamore, Co. Mayo. The service is registered to provide full day-care, parttime and sessional childcare services from 8:00 to 18:00 hours to children aged from one to six years of age.
Premises	The premises is a purpose built, detached, single storey building with three playrooms named the Toddler, Junior Preschool and Senior Preschool playrooms. The Toddler playroom has an adjacent sleep area and there is a large lobby, kitchen, sanitary facilities and an office. The service has enclosed outdoor areas for each of the playrooms. The service is registered to provide school aged services.
Staffing	There are 17 staff working in the service including a manger, childcare staff, administrative staff and kitchen staff. A cleaner is employed in the service but is not present during opening hours when children are present. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.
Methodology	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

 <p>TUSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency</p>	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>2 of 11</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>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>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) There is a named designated person in charge in the service.

(b) There is a named person to deputise for the designated person in charge in the service 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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service proposes that adequate numbers of adults will be employed to care directly for the children and maintain the relevant adult to child ratios for both sessional and full day care/parttime and sessional services.

The service proposes that:

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>10 children will attend the Toddler playroom with 3 staff provided to care for them.</p> <p>11 children will attend the Junior Preschool playroom with 2 staff provided to care for them.</p> <p>33 children will attend sessional services including a maximum of 32 children attending full day care/parttime services in the Senior Preschool playroom. It is proposed that there will be 4 staff provided in the room. The full day care/parttime adult to child ratios of 1 adult to 6 children aged from 2-3 years and 1 adult to 8 children aged from 3- 6 years will be maintained.</p> <p>(8) (a) There are at least two adults present when the service is in progress.</p>
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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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

The inspection focused on the two playrooms that that the service proposes to increase the numbers of children attending in. These two playrooms are the Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms. The requirements have been met.

(1) (a) Both the Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms have adequate amounts of toys and play equipment to accommodate the additional children to attend sessional or full day care/parttime services considering the proposed age ranges. The toys and play equipment are displayed in open accessible storage systems, positioned at low levels allowing a child-led learning environment. The play equipment is arranged in similar defined interest areas in the rooms. These include construction and transport toys, dress up items for role play, home areas and tabletop activities such as puzzles. Both playrooms have art, and craft

supplies suitable for the age range of the children proposed. Messy play is facilitated at sand/water tables. There are adequate numbers of age-appropriate books available in the playrooms. Tables and adequate numbers of age-appropriate chairs are provided for the children to allow tabletop activities, snack time and group work in the playrooms.

The Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms have separate outdoor areas that are directly accessible from their respective playrooms. Both outdoor areas have sheltered areas to provide protection in poor weather and contain play items such as the sand tables. Ride on toys, climbing systems and balance toys are provided for physical activity and gross motor development. Seating is available in the outdoors areas for children to rest on. There are storage sheds available to store outdoor toys and play equipment.

(b) The proposed additional children are to be aged over two years. Adequate supplies of stackable beds are available in the service for children aged over two years to rest on. The children may be accommodated to rest/sleep on the stackable beds in the Junior Preschool playroom or the Toddler sleep room. Individual linen is supplied by the service and laundered regularly. The Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms have rest areas with soft seating for children to rest/relax that can accommodate the proposed additional children.

(3) The outdoor areas on the premises proposed for use by the additional children are suitable, safe and secure and can accommodate the additional children. The perimeters are securely enclosed to prevent children from leaving unnoticed with securing mechanisms in place on gates. The spaces have a mixture of ground coverings including impact absorbent ground cover under climbing equipment, mulch in a mud kitchen area, tarmac and cement pathways. The outdoor toys and play equipment provided are in satisfactory condition with no hazards present on the items observed.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service proposes to provide breakfast, snacks and meals to the children in line with the service's healthy eating policy. There is a detailed 3-week menu that is made available to parents. The staff advised the inspector that drinking water will always be available to the children in the service.

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.

Requirement met:

General Safety

- Blind cords on windows in the playrooms have securing devices in place.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.
- Secure storage for medication is available in the office depending on manufacturers storage advice.
- Safe storage is provided for cleaning products in a cupboard in the staff room and high-level storage areas in the playrooms and is inaccessible by children.
- A pull cord in one of the staff sanitary units is secured and is inaccessible to children.
- Televisions on walls in playrooms were securely mounted.
- There is a large silver/grey metal box in the Senior Playschool outdoor area that is fenced off to prevent access by children.
- The service's oil tank is located off the outdoor play area and inaccessible by children.

Infection control:

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refrigerators are available to store perishable food items and medication depending on manufacturer’s instructions. • Aprons and gloves are provided for use by the staff in the nappy change areas. • There is separate storage for children’s personal belongings. • Foot pedal operated bins are used for waste disposal. • The waste bins are fenced off from the outdoor play areas at the rear of the premises and inaccessible to children.
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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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Certificates of completion of First Aid Responder (FAR) training are available for nine staff members with respective expiry dates ranging from the 6 April 2025 to 16 March 2026. At least one staff member with FAR training is rostered to always work in the service when children are present.
- (2)(a) Suitably equipped labelled first aid boxes are stored in the playrooms in easily identifiable locations out of potential reach of children.
- (b) The first aid equipment is to be always available to children attending the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) Copies of the templates for the recording of all monthly fire drills to take place on the premises are available in the service. The locations of the fire assembly points are signposted in the outdoor areas.
- (b) Records are available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 9 February 2024 and the fire detection and alarm system was last maintained on the 13 January 2025.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are conspicuously displayed in the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a certificate of insurance for full day care services for a maximum of 92 children at any one time with an expiry date of 27 March 2025.

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:

The requirements have been met. The inspection focused on the two playrooms that that the service proposes to increase the numbers of children attending in. These two playrooms are the Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms.

- (a) No obvious defects were observed in the building structure.
- (b) The entrances/exits are secured to prevent children from leaving unnoticed. An electronic system is in place at the main internal entrance door to allow staff to control entry of people to the service. The main entrance gate has an electronic system to reduce the risk of children leaving unnoticed. There are window opening restrictors in place on low level windows where needed.
- (c) **Lighting:** Natural light is provided through windows and doors and there is artificial lighting in the premises which is adequate and suitable for childcare services. The light fittings in the playrooms and in the sanitary areas have protective covers in place.
Heating: There is an oil fuelled central heating system in the premises that was last serviced/maintained on the 21 January 2025. The air temperatures of the Toddler sleep room, playrooms and sanitary areas were recorded between the required 18 to 22°C.
Ventilation: There are openable windows in the playrooms to allow ventilation of the rooms. The sanitary areas are ventilated by audible mechanical ventilation systems and/or windows.
- (d) The Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms and the sanitary areas are clean and maintained in a satisfactory condition. The service has cleaning schedules in place and templates are provided for staff to record cleaning

	<p>processes in writing. A pest control monitoring system is in place with written records kept by staff.</p> <p>(e) Adult sanitary accommodation: There is one toilet, and one wash hand basin provided for each eight staff in the service.</p> <p>Child sanitary accommodation:</p> <p>There is one toilet, one wash hand basin and a nappy changing unit provided for use by the proposed 11 children to attend the Junior Preschool playroom. There are three toilets, three wash hand basins and a nappy changing unit allocated for use by the proposed 33 children in the Senior Preschool playroom.</p> <p>Liquid soap, paper hand towels are provided for hand washing and drying with foot pedal operated bins provided in the children’s sanitary unit for waste disposal. The hot water temperatures of the taps in all the sanitary units’ wash hand basins were recorded below 43°C during the inspection.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

<p>(1) <i>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.</i></p> <p>(2) <i>A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.</i></p> <p>(3) <i>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.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) <i>a sessional pre-school service, and</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) <i>a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).</i></p>	
Requirement met:	<p>The inspection focused on the two playrooms that that the service proposes to increase the numbers of children attending in and included the Junior and Senior Preschool playrooms. The requirement has been met as follows:</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available to accommodate the proposed increased number of children in the two playrooms as follows:</p>

- There is 28.75 square metres of space in the Junior Preschool playroom for the proposed maximum of 11 children attending sessional and full day care/parttime services.
 - There is 74.47 square metres of clear floor space in the Senior Preschool playroom for the proposed maximum of 33 children attending sessional services (including the proposed 32 children attending full day care/parttime services).
- (2) These regulations specify minimum space requirements of 2.35 square metres for children aged between two and three years and 2.3 square metres for children aged between three and six years.
- The Junior Preschool playroom clear floor space of 28.75 square metres can accommodate the proposed maximum number of 11 children aged from 2 to 3 years attending parttime/full day services.
- The Senior Preschool playroom clear floor space of 74.47 square metres can accommodate the proposed 32 children attending full day care and parttime services and 33 children attending sessional services.
- (3) and (4)
- The minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for children in the two playrooms where sessional pre-school services and full day care service are to be contemporaneously provided.