

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO089
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Name of Service:	Naionra Gleann Na Muaidhe
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Address of Service:	Bun Altaí, Gleann na Muaidhe, Béal an Átha, Béal an Átha, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F26 Y2Y8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Michelle Uí Dhéaganaigh
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Farrell
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
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Description of service

Naionra Gleann Na Muaidhe is a community-based sessional service in Gleann na Muaidhe village in a Gaeltacht area of County Mayo. The service is registered to cater for children aged from two to six years of age, between 09:30 -12:30 hours. The service is in a purpose-built extension to a community centre. There is one playroom, a kitchenette/office area, storeroom and sanitary facilities. The children have direct access from the playroom to an enclosed outdoor play area.

Staffing

There were four adults in the service including auxiliary staff and one relief staff member. The registered provider does not work directly 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under sections of regulations 9, 11, 15, 23, 25, 26, 27 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 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

(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

(2) There were four adults in the service including an adult who provided relief cover at the time of the inspection.

The following vetting information was available on file for the four adults:

- (a) Two written validated references from past employers particularly the most recent employer for two adults. One written validated reference from a past employer for two adults.
 - (b) Two written validated references from sources other than past employers for two adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) International police vetting was available for required time frames for two staff members.
- (4) Evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was available for three adults who worked directly with the preschool children.

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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children during the unannounced inspection with 2 staff working directly with the 21 preschool children present. An additional auxiliary staff member was present throughout the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services for the age range of children attending were adhered to with 2 adults working directly with 21 children during the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

1. Ten of the children's records were randomly selected for review by the inspector from the children currently enrolled in the service.
 - (a) to (i)

The ten records were found to be compliant with the details required under the regulation.
- (3) (c) The records were made available to the inspector in the service by the designated person in charge.

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 main external entrance door to the service was secured when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service. The inspector was admitted to the service by the designated person in charge following production of identification documentation. The toys and play equipment were kept in good condition and were suitable for the age and developmental stages of the children using them. There was a securing device on the kitchen door allowing the staff to restrict access by the children to the area. Cleaning products were stored in the storeroom out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Warm water controlled under 43°C, liquid soap and paper towels were used for washing and drying hands. The staff cleaned down surfaces after use for example the tables after mealtime. Written records were kept of cleaning and disinfecting procedures in the service with cleaning schedules to guide practice available. Windows were opened to ventilate the playroom whilst keeping the room air temperature between the required temperature range of 18-22°C. Children's food provided from home including perishable items such as cheese and yoghurt was stored in a refrigerator.

Administration of Medication:

The staff told the inspector that none of the children required medication to be administered to them while in the service. The staff were aware of safe procedures in relation to medication administration.

Fire Safety:

Emergency exit routes were observed to be clear from obstruction during the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Sections of the wooden fencing and gate in the outdoor area to the rear of the premises had been damaged in a recent storm. The wooden fencing and gate required repairs as there was a potential for a child to be able to leave the area due to gaps and footholds in these sections.

Infection Control:

2. Small open bins were used for the disposal of waste including paper hand towels in the children’s sanitary area and at a sink in the playroom where children washed and dried their hands. Foot pedal operated bins are required to be used for the disposal of waste.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in writing that:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Repairs have been carried out to the wooden fencing and gate in the outdoor area to the rear of the premises. Where possible issues resulting from storm damage will be repaired/resolved as soon as it is safe to do so.

Infection Control:

2. Foot pedal operated bins have been ordered. The service is awaiting delivery of same. Foot pedal bins will be used in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

Copy of invoice.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed by the Inspectorate and addresses the regulatory non-compliance found on inspection. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) Certificates of the completion of First Aid Response (FAR) training courses were available on file for three of the staff with expiry dates for the 27 November 2025.
- (2)
 - (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location in the kitchen.
 - (b) The first aid equipment was readily accessible to the staff if a child required first aid treatment in the service.

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) Monthly fire drills (druil dóiteán) were carried out in the service with written records kept by staff. The last fire drill was undertaken in the service on the 6 January 2025.
- (b) There was a record of the number, type and annual maintenance of the firefighting equipment showing that the firefighting equipment was last maintained on the 30 August 2024.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed in the playroom near the door leading to the kitchen.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b) The certificate of the testing/maintenance of the smoke alarms showed that the system was last maintained on the 6 October 2022. Smoke alarms are required to be maintained on an annual basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider advised in writing that:

- (1) (b)

Corrective and Preventive Action

The smoke alarm has been maintained on the 10 February 2025. Smoke alarms will be maintained on an annual basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of maintenance certificate of smoke alarms.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed by the Inspectorate and found to have addressed the non-compliance found on inspection under Regulation 26.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The required adult: child ratios were adhered to during the inspection. Adults supervised the children appropriately mainly by sight. The children who were able to use the toilet by themselves were out of sight of the adults when using the toilet but remained within earshot. The adults were observed to respond promptly to the children when they needed help. At mealtime, the staff sat with the children when supervising them eating their food. The children did not play outdoors on the day of the inspection following risk assessment by staff in relation to damage to fencing in the outdoor area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was a certificate of insurance available for a maximum of 22 children at any one time with an expiry date of the 27 November 2025.