

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO093
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Name of Service:	Nead Na Nóg Ltd.
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Address of Service:	Main Street, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F31 X032
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Name of Registered Provider:	Helen O'Shea
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	6
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
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Inspection undertaken by:	B Lavin N Toner
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Nead Na Nóg CLG is a non-profit, community-based childcare service located in Ballinrobe town in Co Mayo. The service provides sessional and part time services for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age, Monday to Friday. The service is located on the ground floor of a premises located on the main street of Ballinrobe. There is one large playroom with kitchenette area, sanitary facilities and an outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are three staff members working directly with the children 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. 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 reoccurring. 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 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,*
- (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,*
- (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)

There was a designated person in charge in the service charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.

(2)

(a) A review of staff files showed that three staff had references from six previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) No police vetting was required.

(4)

Evidence of the completion of major qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education above Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework were displayed in the service's hallway for the three adults working directly with the children in the service.

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 were three adults working directly with children on the day of inspection.

The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:

Three adults cared for 13 children aged 3 -4 years of age in the morning.

In the afternoon the preschool room had 6 children between the ages of 3 and 4 years with 2 staff members caring for the children.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.

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.

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

Children had their morning snack on the inspector's arrival. Children brought in their snack from home and the staff informed the inspectors they promote healthy eating in the service. Staff sat with the children at morning snack time. Children all sat together in a calm relaxing environment. Some children were assisted to use the bathroom during the morning snack. The staff encouraged and supported children to become more independent in toileting practices. One child had a toileting accident. The staff reassured the child and helped them with their personal care and toileting. Staff were using soft tones, the child's individual name, getting down to their level and making eye contact to reassure them whilst assisting them with their personal care. Staff used positive and appropriate language when supporting children while toileting. Some children wore nappies. The service had a designated area and suitable facilities for nappy changing.

Children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors. Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance in the outdoor area. Within the indoor space was a variety of equipment including a play kitchen area for learning through play and a library area with bean bags to support children to relax or rest in between activities. The room included a dress up area with costumes and uniforms to promote creativity and role play. There was a supply of arts/crafts materials and artwork was displayed on the walls with an emphasis on Saint Valentine's Day.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

Each child was assigned a dedicated key person who focused on their specific goals and interests, documenting all progress in an individualised learning journal. Staff were actively involved in children's play and were seen initiating games in the indoor space in the earlier part of the morning and again in the outdoor space later in the day. Staff behaved in a way that created a positive atmosphere talking and joking with the children and showing affection where required. The service provided opportunities for small and large group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork and a sense of belonging. Children could be seen playing in small groups at times and other times larger groups in different games. There was a sense of embracing cultures in the service with different flags and languages displayed throughout the indoor play area. The service provided ongoing opportunities for children to recognise and accept similarities and differences between them.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

There were numerous wall displays in the playroom on themes such as colour recognition, the weather, seasons and days of the week. The service used a child-centred approach, creating an inclusive and diverse learning environment where each child had equal opportunity by a variety of means. This was evident from posters on the walls of the preschool throughout. Routines, experiences, materials and activities within the service reflect diverse backgrounds in a positive way, which helped children to learn, become aware of and be respectful of ethnic and cultural differences within the service.

The children had access to a large, versatile outdoor space. This space featured two large shelters for messy play (mud, a kitchen, sand and water) and imaginative play. It also included an artificial grass section with a tunnel, ride-on toys, climbing equipment and a pebbled area for digging. The outdoor area also included wooden benches for seating and a dedicated storage shed for equipment. The outdoor play environment provided activities and opportunities for swinging, running, rough and tumble and exploring. The children had opportunities to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions, with additional outdoor clothing and wellingtons available to the children. The equipment and materials in the outdoor play area supported children's play, movement and exploration.

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.

Compliance Information

Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their morning and afternoon snack without being rushed. The staff encouraged and supported the children to feed themselves independently. The children sat at a comfortable height in relation to the tabletop. The table and chairs were suitable for their age and stage of development. The person in charge told the inspectors that additional snack could be provided to children who wanted more or if they did not like the food provided by parents/guardians.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for the three staff members. However, these vetting disclosures 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'

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Three Garda vetting renewals have been applied for. The person in charge will check all staff files periodically and ensure that all garda vetting remains up to date.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted to the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on 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)

Three staff had current paediatric First Aid Responder training completed and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)

(a) There was first aid box safely stored and easily accessible to staff on the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(b) The first aid box was not adequate for the children attending the pre-school service on the day of inspection.

The first aid box did not contain appropriate first aid supplies for minor injuries to be treated within the service due to product's being out of date. The following products was out of date

- Sterile eye pads
- Sterile unmedicated sterile dressings (large, medium and small)
- Water-based burns dressings - small
- Water-based burns dressing – large
- Individually wrapped disinfectant wipes

The following items where available for the preschool children

- Pocket face mask

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The first aid box has been sufficiently stocked with the required items. The first aid box will be checked regularly and items replaced as necessary. Out of date items will be disposed of.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted to the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.