

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY062
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ríocht na nÓg ag Cúl an Tí
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Dun Mhuire, 50 Sráid an Phiarsaigh, An tAonach, Co Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E45 R262
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Eibhlín Ui Mhoronaigh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM	-
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary E45A099
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L McGeeney
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

This sessional service was established in 2011 to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old through the medium of the Irish language.

The service operates Monday – Friday, 9am – 12pm for 38 weeks of the year. Places are funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children.

The service is operated from rooms on the ground floor of a three storey, semi-detached building in the town of Nenagh in north Tipperary. The pre-school service has exclusive use of two interconnected rooms at the back of the building while the school aged service uses rooms in the upper floors of the building.

There are no outdoor facilities on the premises but the children are taken to the nearby castle field for outdoor play.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly in the service. The service manager is the person in charge on a daily basis. The manager and another member of staff work directly with the children each day. Both staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 or 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications. On the day of inspection there was a third level degree student on work placement 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulations 9(2)(4), 11(1)(3)(8), 15(1)(3), 20(1)(3), 21, 22, 24, 25 and 28.

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

The files of the two members of staff and the third level student were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

(2)(a) Written, validated references from past employers were available in respect of the two members of staff.

(b) Written, validated references from a source other than a past employer were available in respect of both members of staff and the third level student.

(c) Garda vetting had been carried out in respect of both staff and the student. Relevant documents were kept on file. Garda vetting had been carried out within the last three years.

(d) Not applicable on the day of inspection as none of the staff or student had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six consecutive months.

(4) Staff employed in the service held recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 or 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were two staff working directly with eight children aged between 2.5 and 5 years old on the morning of the inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratio was maintained at 1 to 4 on the day of inspection which was greater than the minimum requirement of 1 to 11. The third level student wasn't included in the adult to child ratio.

(8)(c) There were two staff present when the service was in operation.

### 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-*

- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

The registration forms of the children attending the service were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

(1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (g) and (i) of this regulation.

(3)(b) The registration forms were available for inspection on the premises by a member of staff

(c) The registration forms were available for inspection by an authorised person.

## Non-Compliance Information

(1)(h) The registration forms did not include the required information regarding any immunisations that the children had received.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

We have changed our application forms to include information on immunisations as recommended by the report. In future, the new applications will be used. They will also be issued to existing children within the service for the school year going forward.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the updated registration form was received by the early years inspectorate on 16 April 2025.

## Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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, or

(b) Where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The children had access to two activity rooms that they could move between freely during the session. The rooms were bright and comfortable and laid out in a variety of interest areas to support the children’s learning through play and exploration. The front room was set up for dining, table top activities, sensory play and small world play while the back room was set up for reading, relaxation, movement, imaginative play and construction. The children had access to a large room upstairs if needed for physical play on days when they couldn’t go to the castle field. On the day of inspection the children walked to the castle field and enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment there.

(b) The children could rest and relax in the cosy area in the back room when they wanted to. This space was supplied with floor mats and bean bags and was located beside the book shelves.

(3)(b) The children did not have access to an outdoor area onsite but were taken on walks in the town and to the castle field, located near the service. On the day of inspection the weather was dry and sunny so the children were taken to the castle field to play. The children wore high visibility vests, walked in pairs and held onto a walking rope with one member of staff at the front and another at the back when going for walks. The castle field was a public garden in the town with a tower castle in the centre surrounded by stone walls, mature trees, grass, footpaths and bench seats.

### 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 service was well equipped with a range of furniture, toys, materials and resources suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. Resources included posters, books and audio to support the children to learn and use the Irish language in their play and daily activities.

There were tables and chairs in each room for use by children and staff. There were floor to ceiling, wall mounted, open shelving units in both rooms for the storage of toys and equipment. The children could independently access the materials on the lower shelves while extra resources for seasonal or rotated use could be stored on the higher

shelves. Other materials and toys were stored in their designated areas or in specific furniture such as the kitchen in the home corner.

There were clothing rails for the dress-up clothes and sand and water tables with lids so they could be closed when not in use.

There was a kitchenette with a fridge, sink unit and cupboards in the front room.

The walls of both rooms were covered with posters of interest to the children, photos and samples of their art work.

### 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

The service had a healthy eating policy. Children brought a packed lunch from home to eat at lunchtime. Each child had a drink bottle which they could access during the day when they needed a drink. The drink bottles were refilled with water as required.

Food eaten on the day of inspection included: sandwiches, rice cakes, bread rolls, pancakes, fromage frais and fruit such as watermelon, cucumber slices and grapes. The inspection took place on pancake Tuesday. The staff had made pancakes which were offered to the children after they had eaten their lunch. Parents had been informed of this ahead of time and had given their permission.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

### Compliance Information

(1) The staff were responsible for recording the arrival and departure times of the children on a weekly attendance sheet designed for that purpose.

(3)(a) Staff met any visitors to the service at the entrance door before allowing them admission to the service if appropriate.

### 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) There was one member of staff working in the service who held current certification in first aid response (FAR) valid until 26 October 2025.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored on a wall hook in the front room.

(b) The first aid box was available if required by a child attending the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The service held current insurance for a sessional service (AM) and afterschool for up to 30 children attending at one time, valid until 31 August 2025.