

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015TY136

**Name of Service:** Naionra Chaislean Nua Teo

**Address of Service:** Newcastle, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, E91YE39

**Email Address:** info@annaionranewcastle.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Helen McGrath

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Addition of a new classroom.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	No change in proposed number of children that can be accommodated -remains at 70.
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	New classroom may be approved.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Additional Classroom

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	9	1	2	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Norma Thornton  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
 Early Years Inspectorate,  
 Tusla Child and Family Agency,  
 Athy Road,  
 Carlow.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 70 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> December 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>	Naionra Chaislean Nua Teo is a registered full day community childcare service located in the rural village of Newcastle in county Tipperary. The service provides full day, part-time and sessional early childhood care and education services, for children aged from birth to 6 years. The service provides a play-based curriculum and childcare services through immersion in the Irish language. The hours of operation are 08:00 to 17:45, Monday to Thursday and 08:00 to 17:00 on Friday.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a purpose-built single storey premises, which is currently comprised of five classrooms, a designated kitchen area, a designated sleep room and two outdoor play areas.  With a recent extension, a sixth classroom- “Seomra Oráiste” has been created. It is proposed that once “Seomra Oráiste” is in operation, that one of the other classrooms will be used as an additional designated sleep room for children aged over 18 months.
<b>Staffing</b>	There were 11 staff working in the service on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service. There is a designated kitchen staff member. All staff who as part of their role in the service work directly with the children held qualification ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.
<b>Methodology</b>	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.  The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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:

(1)(a) There is a designated person in charge and a named deputy designated person in charge who can deputise as and when required. Both the designated person in charge and named deputy designated person in charge were onsite to facilitate the inspection.

### 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

#### Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider proposes that there will always be an adequate number of staff working directly with the children in the new classroom. The designated person in charge states that there will be a least two qualified staff members always working in the new classroom.

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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.*
- (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.*

#### Requirement met:

(1)(a) The inspector observed that the proposed new classroom was clean and carefully planned with newly purchased child sized seating and desks. New child sized furniture had been purchased to create interest areas to stimulate children’s imagination and play. This included a kitchen /home area, construction area, rest and reading area, dress-up area and low-level shelves for children to easily access games, manipulative and connective play resources, treasure baskets of small world figurines, animals, and building resources.

(b) It is proposed that once the new “Seomra Oráiste” classroom is open, a designated sleep room will be created in one of the smaller rooms for children over 18 months. There is already a designated sleep room with 5 standard cots for children under 15 months.

Appropriate floor beds were provided for children aged 15 to 24 months of age and stackable low-level beds were available for children over 2 years of age.

(2) There are two outdoor play areas available for the children attending the new classroom. Both outdoor play areas are secured with a child height wall and fencing. The outdoor play area at the front of the building has a soft play surface and the outdoor play area which is directly accessible from the new classroom has an artificial grass surface.

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### 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:

This requirement is met. A menu plan is already in existence in the service with the main hot meal of the day cooked onsite in the designated kitchen. Drinking water is readily available in each of the existing classrooms. A refrigerator is available for the storage of any perishable items that children may bring into the service for snack times. This is reflected and in line with the service’s healthy eating policy

### 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:

The inspector was assured that all reasonable measures were taken by the registered provider and staff to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service.

The main entrance to the service was secured with a coded keypad call system. Entry to the service could only be authorised by staff who had clear visibility of any visitors to the service through the clear windows in the entrance hall.

Cleaning equipment and products were securely stored in a designated storage area away from the children.

The outdoor play areas were secured with child height walls and fencing.

The registered provider and designated person in charge ensured that all required policies and procedure documents, were available in the service and were communicated to the staff as part of their induction process, on commencing employment in the service and revised with the staff annually.

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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 is met.

- (1) There were six staff members currently trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training. This was reflected on the staff roster to ensure that at least one staff member with FAR training was always on the premises
- (2)(a) A first aid box was available in each of the classrooms and was stored in an obvious position on a high shelf.
- (b) The first aid boxes were always available and could be easily accessed by staff members if needed by the children. A designated first aid officer carried out monthly checks of each of the contents of each of the first aid boxes, to ensure that they were adequately stocked.

### 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 firefighting 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:

- (1)(a) The designated person in charge demonstrated that a record is maintained of monthly fire drills that are carried out in the service.
- The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in December 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service was maintained. The last maintenance check for the firefighting equipment was recorded as having taken place on the 10 July 2024 and the maintenance check for the smoke alarm system was recorded as having taken place on 19 September 2024.

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(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire drill or fire was displayed in the main entrance hall.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

An insurance certificate was available documenting adequate insurance for the 70 preschool children attending a full day care service which covered the period 28 March 2024 to 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 requirement is met.

(a) The designated person in charge stated that there were no issues identified in relation to the building structure.

(b) The entrance door to the premises was well secured with a keypad system, to prevent any children exiting unsupervised and to prevent any unauthorised persons from entering the service.

(c) The classroom was naturally lit with several large windows. The natural light available was supplemented by ceiling lights, each with a protective cover. All the windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Heating was provided by an underground heating system.

(d) There were cleaning schedules and records available demonstrating that the service was cleaned daily and maintained and repaired as required.

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	<p>(e) There were six existing designated children's toilets, each with a hand wash basin, which were either naturally or mechanically ventilated. A separate designated staff toilet was provided.</p> <p>The new proposed classroom had an additional two child sized toilets and two child-sized handwash basins, provided in a bathroom within the classroom.</p>
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### 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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
  - (b) *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).*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) There is adequate and clear floor space provided in the proposed new classroom for up to 22 early years children to attend a sessional early years service.</p> <p>(4) There is a total of 43 square metres of clear space provided in the proposed new classroom.</p> <p>(a) There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of 22 preschool children in the new classroom to attend a sessional service.</p> <p>(b) There is 2.35 square metres available for each of 18 children aged 2 to 6 years to attend the classroom outside of the sessional hours.</p>
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