

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015TY136

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

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

**Eircode:** E91 YE39

**Name of Registered Provider:** Helen McGrath

**Service type:** Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 28/04/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	54	PM	54
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38

**Inspection undertaken by:** Antoinette McNamara

**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** N/A

### Description of service

This full day care service is located in the village of Newcastle Co Tipperary. The service caters for children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The premises is a detached, single storey purpose-built facility. The service consists of six early years rooms, a kitchen, staff areas and outdoor play spaces to the front and side of the building. Play based learning and care through immersion in the Irish language is central to the ethos of the service. The service also provides a school aged service to children attending primary school.

### Staffing

There are 22 staff employed by the service in a range of roles. There are 19 staff employed to work directly with the children. There were 18 staff working in the service on the day of inspection. Staff working directly with children hold qualifications at Level 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The registered provider does not work directly with 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/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,  
Regulation 11(1)(2)(8) Staffing levels,

Regulation 22 Food and drink

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire safety and

Regulation 28 Insurance.

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

*(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, and*

*(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

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy designated person in charge who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present for the inspection.

The staff files for 22 staff were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting documentation was available for one staff working in the service, who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

*(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,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.

(2) The person in charge ensured that the adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the day of inspection.

The service at all times during the inspection ensured that the adult to children ratio was maintained.

- Baby room (6 months to 1 year 6 months): 5 children and 2 staff.
- Toddler: (age 1 year 6 months-3 years): 10 children and 3 staff.
- Seomra corcra (age 2-3 years): 7 children and 2 staff.
- Seomra oraiste (ECCE) (age 3-4 years): 18 children and 2 staff.
- Naíonra (ECCE) (age 4-5 years): 15 children and 3 staff.

(8) Documentary evidence indicated that there were always at least two adults on the premises while children were in attendance.

### 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. The service had an onsite cook. Breakfast and dinner were provided by the service. Parents supplied the children’s snacks. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge within the service. The staff in the kitchen and in each room were aware of which children had food allergies and intolerances. There was a three-week rotating menu displayed outside the kitchen. The meals listed were varied, suitable and nutritious and were prepared in the onsite kitchen. Meals were adapted according to the age and developmental stage of the children. For example, meals for the younger children were chopped into small, bite size pieces. A fruit platter was also supplied to each room in the service daily. Staff sat with the children during snack time to supervise them, encourage conversation and to help if needed, for example with opening lunch boxes. Children had access to their water bottles/beakers and were able to get a drink throughout the day.

### 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 outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised. The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and situated away from the classrooms. Pinch guards covered the hinges on all doors to prevent injury to children. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children. All blind cords were securely mounted out of reach of children.

##### Infection control:

Suitable handwashing and drying facilities were available in the children’s and adult’s sanitary facilities. This included warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. The children were observed to wash their hands when returning from outdoor play and before snack time.

Staff wore gloves and aprons for nappy changing, in line with the nappy changing policy displayed on the walls in the nappy changing areas.

Cots in the sleep room were positioned at least 50cm apart as required to ensure adequate ventilation around each cot and to prevent cross infection.

Cleaning records were displayed in the care rooms and sanitary areas and were completed to date. Hand sanitizer was available in the service.

### Safe sleep:

There was a designated sleep room in the premises for children to sleep during their attendance in the service. Staff were familiar with best practices in safe sleep and carried out physical checks on individual sleeping children, every 10 minutes, recording individual children's sleep positions, colour and breathing. The room temperature on the morning of the inspection was 17.7°C.

## 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 were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending 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 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.

#### Compliance Information

- 1)(a) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. A fire register was maintained for these records and all records associated with fire safety in the service. The firefighting equipment had an annual service in July 2024. The smoke alarm system was last serviced in December 2024
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide full day care for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.