

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY137
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Name of Service:	Naionra Lus na Greine
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann, Cnoc an Ráileigh, Tiobraid Arann, Co. Tipperary
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Eircode:	E34 F544
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mairead Uí Mhurchu
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Service type:	Part Time
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Dates of Inspection:	05/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	5
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry, A Mc Namara
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Naíonra Lus na Gréine is a part-time service located on the premises of the Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann National School. The service has access to a library, kitchen and sports hall within the school, and the use of the outdoor play spaces on the grounds of the national school. The Naíonra is managed by the board of management of the Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann National School. Presently the service offers sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) schemes from 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs and part-time care from 12:00hrs to 14:00hrs. The service is open Monday to Friday for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age.

Staffing

There are four staff employed in the service. All staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),
Regulation 10 Policies and Procedures,

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures,

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued on the day of inspection in relation to regulation 25 First aid. There was no staff member trained in a first aid responder course available to the children in the service. It is acknowledged the registered provider responded on 9 September with a plan to address the non-compliance found.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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,
- (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)(b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider was also available to facilitate the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were four staff employed in the service. All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were eight written and validated reference available on file for the four staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for two staff.

(d)
Police vetting was not required as no staff had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)
All staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The policies and procedures in place specified in Schedule 5 were in place in the service. The policies reviewed on this inspection were the policy on healthy eating and the infection control policy. Both policies were found to be complete and specific to 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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)
There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)
At 11:00hrs.
There were 18 children aged 2 to 6 years of age in the care of 3 staff.
At 12:50hrs
There were 5 children aged 2 to 6 years of age in the care of 3 staff.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The service provided parents with a parent handbook to include information regarding the service ethos, curriculum and policies. This handbook was a national document outlining the ethos of the Naoinra including the introduction of the Irish language to the children. The service also provided parents with a detailed one-page information sheet with an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, the funding schemes available, contact details and the facilities available within the service. It provided parents with information on the day-to-day requirements and running of the service: healthy eating, medication management, behaviour management, complaints, fire safety and first aid.

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, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection. On arrival the children were observed by the inspectors enjoying free play. Some children were in the tented area sitting on low sized couches looking at picture books, other children were observed enjoying tabletop activities playing with bricks and other children were seen enjoying story time with a staff member. Staff were observed to be attentive to the children, encouraging them to share and take turns with their friends. Of note was how staff were attentive to children who needed extra support as they were still settling into the service.

The preschool room was well resourced with equipment and materials for the play and learning needs of the children attending the service. Equipment such as plastic bricks, small cars, miniature animals were stored on

easily accessible shelves throughout the room in operation on the day of inspection. There was a supply of paints, crayons and art materials available for the children to also enjoy. The outdoor area was not used on the day of inspection. The inspectors observed it was safe, suitable and secure. There were benches for children to sit on. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they had additional equipment stored to bring out for the children to play with.

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 manager took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the preschool children attending the service:

GENERAL SAFETY

All cleaning agents were stored in a safe and secure area which was inaccessible to children. Access to the service was gained through the front door of the national school which was secure on arrival by the inspector.

INFECTION CONTROL

The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. Daily and weekly cleaning schedules were recorded and maintained in the service. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot controlled lidded bins available throughout the service. Good hand washing practice was observed on the day of inspection. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. All snacks were stored in the fridge which was situated in the preschool room in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Garda vetting had been obtained for all staff however the service did not adhere to the re-vetting time frames as outlined in the Inspectorate regulatory notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for two staff members.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

1.

Garda Vetting has been applied for the two staff whose vetting did not adhere to the revetting time frames in the inspectorate regulatory notice. The registered provider will ensure all required Garda vetting is renewed every three years as outlined in the inspectorate regulatory notice.

Evidence Submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The response once completed is adequate to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no person available to the children who was trained in a first aid responder course in the service on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged there were three staff trained in a first aid course for schools. It is acknowledged that the registered provider responded promptly to outline steps the service planned to address the non-compliance found on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff have now been trained in a First Aid Responder Course. All staff will attend a refresher course in two years time to maintain the qualification in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

The inspector has received all required certificates of qualification in a first Aid Responder Course for staff working in the service.

Summary Comment

The response submitted is adequate to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in May 2024.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in March 2024. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the service was carried out in December 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance door to the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the children who were present on the day of inspection.