

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD055
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Name of Service:	Naíonra na nDéise
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Address of Service:	Campas Charraig Phiarais, Bóthar Charraig Phiarais, Phort Láirge, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 KP2H
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marc de Grás
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Community Care Building, Cork Road, Waterford City
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Naíonra na nDéise is located on the outskirts of Waterford city in a residential area. The service is based in a classroom in Gael Scoil na nDéise and is managed by the board of management. The service is registered to operate from 9am to 12pm and 12.30pm 3.30pm, but currently only runs a morning session. It offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme through an Irish-medium play-based curriculum. The service cares for children aged 2 to 6 years during the school term.

The sanitary facilities and office are located adjacent to the care room, with direct access to the outdoor area.

The service offers school-age care.

Staffing

The service employs a manager and three care staff. All staff are fluent in the Irish language. The registered provider does not work with the children. All care staff held a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education, or an equivalent qualification, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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, and welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under: -

Regulation 9: Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11: Staffing Levels

Regulation 15: Record of a Pre-School Child

Regulation 16: Record in relation to a Pre-school Service

Regulation 19: Health, Welfare and Development of the Child

Regulation 25: First Aid

Regulation 26: Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 28: Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under:

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(b)
- Regulation 15: Record of a Pree-School Child (1)
- Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis; (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis (j) details of any medication administered to a preschool child attending the service with signed parental consent and (k) details of any accident, injury, incident involving a pre-school child attending the service

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 children, the person in charge, and the staff.

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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 named person in charge and a deputy available to deputise as required.
- b) The person in charge and the deputy were present on the premises on the day of the inspection. The inspector reviewed the roster from the week beginning 2 May 2025 to the week beginning 23 May 2025, which confirmed a person in charge, or a deputy were present on the premises during this period.
- c) The inspector observed that a clear management structure was in place in the service. The manager and room leader were available on the day.

- (2) Recruitment records in respect of four staff and the registered provider were reviewed and the registered provider demonstrated that they had considered two references for all employees as follows:
- There was evidence of validation of nine references from past employers.
 - There was evidence of validation of one reference from a source other than a past employer.
 - A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the five staff. 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.
 - Not applicable as the registered provider had determined that none of the five staff had resided outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18.
- (4) There was evidence that the four staff working directly with the children had attained 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.

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) An adequate number of staff were working with the children on day of inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during inspection. Three staff members were working directly with 19 children in the morning. The person in charge was available to provide support where required.

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.*

Compliance Information

The inspector reviewed a sample of 10 children's record forms. Details required for (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)(i) were included in the sample reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

(g) Details of the children's medical practitioners were not included in the children's registration forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that they have amended the children's registration forms to include the child's general practitioner (GP) and the contact details.

They stated that the original registration forms have been removed, and the new form, including the GP information, has been replaced, both on file on the computer for future printing and in paper form in the office to have on hand.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the updated form was submitted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The information required in this regulation was available to the inspector. Details referred to from (a) to (k) were included in the service policies, the parental handbook and the service website. Through discussion with the staff, they stated that they do not administer medication unless it is an emergency, in line with the service policy.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a)

Posters and labelling in the room promoted the Irish language, for example, posters with colour names in Irish were referred to during an activity linking the visual word with the colours.

The room layout allowed children the autonomy to choose their work or activity with toys and materials on low shelving.

The materials and space available to the children offered a variety of experiences of sensory play, imaginative play, activities to develop fine motor skills, arts and crafts, construction and a space to sit and read.

Children had their cubby hole and shelf labelled with their photographs, supporting their identity and belonging.

(b)

Staff were observed spending time with the children, sitting at their level when speaking to them and waiting for the child to reply before continuing conversations.

Staff used Irish words in their sentences and repeated them in English to support children in the gradual immersion into the Irish language.

Staff described how they supported partnership with parents. For example:

- They share photographs of their child's activities on a private social media platform.
- They give feedback on the child's day during pick up.

- They support parents in learning the Irish language by sharing words and phrases that had been introduced to the children.

Planning and communication between staff were evident. While the children were in the playground with two staff members, the third staff member prepared the classroom for the next activity.

Staff kept children informed of the plan for the morning, discussing the planned science activity after their break.

Staff supported children's transitions positively, for example:

- Staff described how this time of year, they bring the children through the primary school to see where the junior infant class is in preparation for September.
- Staff have brought the children to see the new room, which they will use for the Naíonra in the next term.
- A staff member was heard reminding a child that they were being collected earlier than usual, allowing that child to prepare for going home in their own time.

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 inspector was required to sign in at the school's reception area, and the service had a system in place to prevent unsupervised access or exit from the building.

The care room had direct access to the playground, which was secured by a railing. The outdoor area had a soft surface, and the large outdoor play equipment was observed to be anchored securely to the ground.

Infection Control:

There was warm water, soap and disposable paper towels available at low sinks for the children. Children were encouraged to wash their hands after playing outdoors and before eating their snack.

Administration of Medication:

Staff were familiar and trained in the administration of lifesaving medication for children who have diagnosed medical conditions. Care plans were displayed and described the required steps if a child should show signs or symptoms of their condition.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for five staff members. However, one of these vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider stated that Garda vetting has been applied for and is being processed. They stated that a yearly check will be scheduled to ensure all Garda vetting remains up-to-date.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Evidence of the Garda vetting application was submitted
A copy of the annual checklist was submitted

Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance identified 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) The registered provider has ensured that a person trained in first aid was available to the children at all times. Four staff members were trained to the first aid responder standard.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the office, and a smaller kit was available in the care room.

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.

shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation

(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) The registered provider ensured that fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill was recorded on 4 April 2025.
 - b) Evidence reviewed demonstrated that the firefighting equipment was last serviced in June 2024, and the last maintenance date for the smoke alarm was 30 April 2025.
- (4) The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main care room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was insured for a maximum of 44 children, with a capacity of 36 children at any one time. The expiry date of this insurance was 27 November 2025.