

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD058
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Name of Service:	Naionra Philib Barún
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Address of Service:	Cruabhaile Uachtarach, Trá Mhór, Port Láirge
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Eircode:	X91FX48
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Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne De Bhíal
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Waterford Community Services Cork Road Waterford
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ryan.
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 Philib Barún operates from a gaelscoil in Tramore in county Waterford. The service opened in 1983 and is managed by an independent board of management from the gaelscoil, the service is located on the grounds of the school in a portacabin. Naíonra Philib Barún can accommodate 22 children at any one time, and presently offers a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs Monday to Friday for children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years of age. The service uses the playground facilities of the gaelscoil.

Staffing

The service presently employs a manager and two childcare staff.

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 the child. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11, 19, 25,26, and 27.

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 registered provider, 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*
- (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.

(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. Of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The manager was the designated person in charge. The service also had a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) At all times during the inspection the manager was on the premises.

(c) A board of directors separate to the gaelscoil managed Naíonra Philib Barún. This board were the registered providers of Naíonra Philib Barún. The structure and lines of authority and accountability were clearly outlined by the manager on the day of the inspection.

(2)

On review of the staff files, it was evident that one new staff member was employed to commence working in the naionra in September 2023

The following was observed on the new staff member's file:

(a) There were two written validated references from past employers.

(b) Not applicable as all written references were from past employers.

(c) There was evidence of a completed Garda vetting disclosure certificate from An Garda Síochána.

(d) Not applicable as the staff member had not resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There was evidence that all staff employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in early childhood care and education at level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework. There was evidence of continuous professional development and qualification certificates on file.

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)
On the day of the inspection there were 21 children from 2 years 8 months to 5 years of age being cared for by 3 childcare staff.

(3)
The staff: child ratios exceeded the requirement for the Child Care Act (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

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) Regulation 19 was assessed through direct observation, review of records and discussion with staff. The following was observed in relation to meeting children's care and programme of activities.

The manager explained that Naíonra Philib Barún early years programme was an emergent play-based curriculum delivered with the gradual introduction of the Irish language through repetition and games. There was a documented overview of the yearly plan available, this was themed for the seasons and Celtic festivals.

The mission statement referenced the importance of nurturing children's confidence and helping children to reach their maximum potential in a safe environment through a bilingual curriculum and allowing themes to develop.

On the day of the inspection the summer theme had commenced with the life cycle of the butterfly. Butterfly crafts on lollypop sticks were completed by the children and displayed in the room. The manager explained that the themes were guides and were changeable depending on if the children showed an interest in the topic.

Making and cooking butterfly buns was the main activity on the day. The staff explained that baking was a weekly activity that followed the theme. On the day each child had their own mixing bowl and ingredients, given out by the staff while children were encouraged to recall the Irish words for these. The activity was simple and practical, and all children were involved at all stages throughout, while staff were heard reinforcing the safety around the oven and use of sharp knives. Childrens choices were respected as each child cut their own bun to make wings with options of jam /cream or both offered to stick the butterfly wings.

Water safety was also part of the summer theme with the “holding hand pack” produced bilingually by Water Safety Ireland. Children were observed at free play indoors and in the indoor/ outdoor room enjoying the sand and water play opportunities in this room.

Each child had a learning journal in which photographs and some examples of the child’s work was compiled and was made available to parents to examine if they so choose throughout the year. Key observations were recorded on each child’s wellbeing, development, and integration with the Irish language, at the end of each term.

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)

All staff employed to work in the service had current First Aid Responder training for children.

(2)

(a) There was a first aid box in the childcare room stored on a high shelf that was easily accessible.

(b) The first aid box was suitably always equipped and available.

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) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill took place on the premises on the 12 May 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that fire equipment was last serviced on 9 February 2023 and smoke alarms were last serviced on 21 August 2022.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the childcare room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that all children were supervised at all times. In particular it was observed that one staff member remained in the indoor/ outdoor room while children were at free play in this room. The outdoor play space used for the service was a large tarmac area that was shared with the national school. This area was secured by high wire fencing and locked gates ensuring that children could not leave the area unsupervised.