

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WD093
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tir Na n'Óg
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Siabh gCua Community Centre, Ballinamult, Tourneena, Co. Waterford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E91 F788
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Regina Carroll
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	25/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	7
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Community Care Office Cork Road, Waterford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A Bradshaw
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Tir na nÓg is based in a community centre in the rural village of Tourneena, Co Waterford. There are a dedicated care room and sanitary facilities for the children, and they have access to the large general-purpose hall each day. The public playground is also on the grounds of the community centre.

The service is registered to care for up to 11 children, aged from 2 to 6 years, at any one time. The service operated two sessional services per day, from 09:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 15:30, Monday to Friday during the academic year.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs one staff member on a part-time basis, through support from the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) scheme. The registered provider stated that this person is available outside of their contracted hours to attend the service in the event of an emergency. A student who was on placement was present on the day of the inspection.

### 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.

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment;

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels;

Regulation 15 – Record of Preschool Child;  
Regulation 16 – Record in Relation to Pre-School Service;  
Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play;  
Regulation 22 - Food and Drink;  
Regulation 25 – First Aid;  
Regulation 27 - Supervision;  
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures;  
Regulation 28- Insurance.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15(1) – Record of Preschool Child and 16(1)(h)(i)(k) Records of a preschool child.

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, 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
- (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)(b)(c)

The service had a designated person in charge and a person to deputise if required. The management structure was displayed in the care room.

(2)

Following a review of information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge, the inspector reviewed three files, including the registered provider's file.

(c) Garda vetting was available for the three adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

(4)

On review of the staff files, evidence was available to demonstrate that staff working with preschool children had achieved 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.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b) Validated references were not available for one adult.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider stated that they have validated the references and going forward all references will be validated by them before a new staff member starts employment.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Evidence of validated references were submitted.

### Summary Comment

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

*(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)(3)

During the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children. In the morning, 2 staff members were caring for 11 preschool children, with a student present also. In the afternoon, there was one staff member caring for seven children. The registered provider was rostered to work directly with the children.

### 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

(1) Information required under parts (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g) and (i) was available on the day of the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(j) Of the 10 forms reviewed, 4 did not have a record of the child's immunisations available.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider stated that they have updated the required details on the children's forms, and they will double check the forms at the point of the child's registration with the service.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Evidence of the completed forms were submitted.

#### 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;

#### Compliance Information

The information required from (a) to (i) was available to the inspector. The details were included in the service policies, the statement of the service, and attendance records, and displayed on the notice board.

### 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.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The environment in the care room provided the children with a space which supported their play ideas, choice and varying types of play. The room was bright and warm. On the day of the inspection, the registered provider had restocked the tool bench, and the children were observed to explore and play with the new equipment. The children had access to the large indoor community hall, which was spacious enough for running and using ride-on toys.

Outside, children had access to the local community playground, which was equipped with a variety of activities to support children's physical play.

(b)

Children were observed sitting on a low couch during the morning, reading books, chatting or just taking time away from the activities.

### 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 registered provider stated that snacks were supplied by parents each day. The children had access to their water bottles throughout the morning. During their mid-morning snack, the children ate a variety of foods including sandwiches, fruit, yoghurt, wraps and cheese.

### 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 as a first aid responder was available to the children at all times.
- (2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position 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 fire fighting 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) Fire drills were completed monthly, and a written record of these was available on the day. The last fire drill was carried out on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2025.
- (4)
- A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each of the care rooms and at the exits.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) While it acknowledged that a maintenance record was available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment which were serviced on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2025. The record of the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms available on the day was not current and was dated 2022.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has contacted the fire alarm company and has requested a service call out. They are waiting on a confirmed date. They have stated they will include a reminder in their diary to ensure an annual service takes place in the future.

The registered provider stated the fire alarm system was serviced on the 12 January 2026.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of the fire alarm having been service was submitted to the inspectorate on the 12 January 2026.

## Summary Comment

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

## 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 appropriately supervised at all times throughout the inspection. Staff were observed to engage with individual children but also be mindful of the needs of the larger group. For example, a staff member was sitting with one child who was completing a tabletop activity when another child called the staff member's name, and they responded immediately and offered verbal support. Children were observed to toilet independently with a staff member remaining close by to help if required.

## 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 11 sessional children twice a day. The expiry date was 27 March 2026