

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WW178
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naionra na gCloch Liath
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Blacklion, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A63 AN22
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Dorothy O'Connell, Valerie Crowley
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	12
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mona Condon
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

This service provides part-time care and education through the Irish language to pre-school children. The service operates from 8.20am to 13.10pm and is registered to cater for a maximum of 44 children, aged from two to six years of age at one time.

The Naíonra operates in one of the classrooms on the ground floor of Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath. It is located on the outskirts of the village of Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The service has an outdoor area at the rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment.

### Staffing

There are two registered providers, both of whom were present on inspection. A further three adults are employed to work directly with the children.

### 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.

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 reoccurring. 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 providers, 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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2)
- Three new adults were employed since last inspection.
- (a)(b) Six written validated references were available in respect of three new adults employed.
- (c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for three new staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable as the new adult employed had not lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4)
- Documentary evidence was available to confirm that two newly employed adults had 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

- (4) It could not be confirmed if one adult giving direct care to children had 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.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

I will apply for clarification regarding the staff member's qualification. Meanwhile the staff member has completed her Level 6 in Early childhood education and care. In future I will check that each staff member has the required qualification prior to employment.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of certificate of qualification received.

#### Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 9.

### 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) At all times during the inspection an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for part-time care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 15 children attending the service being supervised by four adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) The staff roster demonstrated four adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(j) Twelve files were examined.

In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child. The children's files were located in a secure place in the service.

(3) (c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspector.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

Suitable furniture, play equipment and materials were available for the children attending.

Child sized tables and chairs, low level shelving were available for the children. A rest area with a child-sized couch and a fold-up sleep mat were available if a child needed to rest or take a break from activities. A sliding door storage unit was available for staff to safely store additional toys, equipment and work materials.

A variety of toys and equipment in specific interest areas were suitable for the age group attending. These were available at a child's level, making it easy for a child to choose a toy of interest and freely change as they wished.

Indoor play equipment included dolls, prams, kitchen, workbench, construction toys, transport toys, animals, puzzles and Montessori equipment. Paint, pencils and crayons were available also.

Outdoors equipment included a playhouse, slide, sand pit, bike track, climbing frame, tunnel and a planting area.

### 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 service met the necessary safety requirements regarding indoor and outdoor environments, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. A detailed care plan for two children who had a specific medical requirement was available and staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the actions to be taken in the event of an emergency.

##### Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap, and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing routines which were well established.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were on

display for the room environment and sanitary area which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic manner.

**Administration of Medication:**

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service.

**Fire Safety:**

Fire exits were unobstructed. Evidence was available to confirm that a fire drill is carried out on a monthly basis.

**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)

Two adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room and hallway.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children.

## 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 children present were supervised at all times when indoors and outdoors during the session.