

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW194
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Ghleann na Darach
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Address of Service:	20 Oak Glen View, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A98 FP63
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Name of Registered Provider:	Grace Roche
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	26/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 X38W.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern
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	N/A
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Description of service

Naíonra Ghleann na Darach is one of two early years services privately operated by the registered provider. The service operates from two rooms on the ground floor of a house in a housing estate in Bray Co. Wicklow. It is registered to accommodate a maximum of 20 children aged 2 – 6 years on a sessional basis. The service operates a morning session, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The premises includes sanitary facilities and there is an outdoor area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider and one other staff member 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. 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 re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform

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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 member 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-

- (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*

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Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
- (b) The person in charge was always on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge and named person to deputise to be present at all times of opening.
- (2)(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for both 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.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. There were 2 adults working directly with 17 children aged 3 - 6 years, attending on a sessional basis.
- (3) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

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

The children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the adults and the environment. The children moved freely between two rooms, engaging in free-play and activities. There were defined interest areas to support play including a home corner, construction area and a messy play area. A rest area was provided with books to support language development. The outdoor area included a sand table, a slide and ride-on toys. The inspector observed the children engaging in activities including art, construction, sand-play and imaginary play.

The adults were attentive to the needs of the children. They supervised toilet-use whilst supporting the children's independence. They ensured the children were wearing their coats before going outside and drinks of water were always available. The children brought food from home which they ate after outdoor play, seated in two groups. The adults engaged kindly with the children, supporting them in their play and providing comfort when needed. The registered provider told the inspector that an app, e-mails and phone calls are used for two way communication with parents/guardians along with communication at drop-off and collection.

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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:

Entrances were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. Equipment and materials were well maintained and suitable to the ages and stages of the children. Hazardous items including cables and cleaning product were secured out of children's reach. Emergency exits were kept clear. Monthly fire drill records were available, and staff demonstrated an awareness of the procedures to evacuate the children safely in the event of a fire.

Infection Control:

Measures had been taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading. The premises and equipment appeared clean and cleaning schedules were in place. Sanitary facilities were equipped to support handwashing. The children washed their hands at appropriate times including after toileting, after outdoor play and before eating. Pedal operated bins were in place to manage waste appropriately.

Administration of Medication:

The registered provider reported that no child had received medicine while attending the service. The registered provider demonstrated an awareness of how to administer medicine safely if required including obtaining written parent/guardian consent, having the second staff member witness the administration and making a record.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the regulatory notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

We have reapplied for the vetting. Both management and the staff member have been in touch with the organisation who manages Garda vetting for early years services. There appeared to be a technical issue on their end, and they have advised sending another application once the site is operational. Renewal reminders have been added to yearly admin checklist.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of email confirming application.

Summary Comment

The renewed Garda vetting disclosure remains outstanding. The regulatory requirement has not been met.

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) The service had a suitably equipped first aid box which was stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was always available for use by staff.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) Although one adult held the required certificate in first aid training, the date of expiry recorded on the certificate was 21 March 2026.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A booking has been made for the refresher course for First Aid Responders (FAR). The next available FAR course is on 18 June 2026. A booking has been made and paid for. Staff files to be reviewed each year to ensure certificates are refreshed before the expiry date. Renewal reminders have been added to the yearly administration checklist.

Supporting documentation submitted

Invoice for FAR recertification training.

Summary Comment

The training remains outstanding. The regulatory requirement has not been met.

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) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had been carried out in the service. The most recent fire drill record was dated 20 February 2026.
 - (b) Records were available in relation to the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm. The most recent dates of testing were 16 April 2026 and 13 May 2025 respectively.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.

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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 inspector observed that the children were appropriately supervised. This included when they were eating, using the sanitary facilities and playing indoors and outdoors.