

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW221

Name of Service: An Naíonra Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh

Address of Service: C/O Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Eircode: A98 YH48

Name of Registered Provider: Hannah Farrell

Service type: Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 27/02/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	12
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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

Description of service

This sessional service was first established in 2012. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age, through the use of the Irish language. The registered provider operates a part-time service in conjunction with a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service for 38 weeks of the year Monday to Friday. Operational hours are from 08.40am to 01.40pm. The service operates out of two pre-school rooms located in the Gaelscoil, which is situated the town of Bray Co. Wicklow. The children have access to the National school's main hall, and have a small outdoor area, for their own use, located at the back of the school.

Staffing

There are four members of staff employed in the pre-school service this includes the registered provider. All four members of staff were present on the day of 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.

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 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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme.”

Compliance Information

There are four members of staff employed in the pre-school service and this includes the registered provider. These four staff files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The registered provider was in charge of the service and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Written references were available with respect to four staff members.

- (c)
The current required Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of four staff members.
- (d)
Police vetting was not required as no staff members had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.
- (4)
Each adult working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Qualifications Framework.
- (6A)
There was one adult employed pursuant to the scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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)
The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service at all times.
- (2)

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were four adults employed and present with twenty-one children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)

There were two adults on the premises at all times throughout the inspection, this was confirmed by the staff roster.

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)-(i)

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing of the above list of particulars, was kept in respect of each child attending the pre-school service.

(3)(c)

The registered provider ensured that these records were available for inspection to an authorised person.

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-
(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)(b)

The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were asked what activity they wished to pursue, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the morning. The transition between one activity and the next was smooth and unhurried, aided by the language used by the adults to the children. One to one attention was given to a child if it was required and minor issues handled promptly and sensitively.

The classroom layouts reflected specific areas of interests for the children. The cosy area in both Seomra Mor and Seomra Beag were well laid out and inviting should the children require a rest during their day.

The service operates a big snack time for all the children in the morning and second snack time for the children who avail of the part-time service. A different child each day is given the opportunity to hand out lunches to the class and a staff member supervised hand washing before they started eating. There was fresh drinking water available to the children throughout the morning. The snack time was relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children as adults engaged with them helping when required. Children were addressed by their name and were given plenty of time to eat their food. All food was provided by the parents of the children attending the service.

Children were supported to be independent with looking after their belongings, in the tidy up process and with using the toilet. All with adequate supervision.

Childrens parents are spoken to on an individual basis at collection 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 main door to the premises was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to the service.

The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.

Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.

All toys were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.

All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.

The emergency exit route in each pre-school room was free from obstruction.

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous place in each pre-school room.

Infection Control:

The Naíonra had access to two separate sanitary areas within the Gaelscoil, each with its own toilet and sink.

There was warm running water at 38.6°C, liquid soap and paper towels available.

A foot pedal bin was available in both sanitary areas for the safe disposal of used paper towels. Foot pedal bins were also available in both pre-school rooms.

Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time as was hand washing by adults and children before snacks and after using the toilet.

A cleaning schedule was present and maintained in the pre-school rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (1)
The registered provider ensured that each child attending the service was checked in and out by a staff member.
- (3)(a) (i)-(iv)
The registered provided ensured that no other person other than the approved list (i)-(iv) could enter the premises.
- (b)
A daily record in writing of any such person was available in the premises.
- (4)
The registered provider demonstrated that all records referred to in paragraph (3)(b) were kept for a period of one year.

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 ensured that a staff member who was trained in first aid, was available to the children attending the pre-school throughout their day.
- (2)(a)
There was a fully stocked first aid box located in a visible place within both the pre-school rooms.
- (b)
The first aid box was available to all children attending the service throughout their day.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no staff member on the premises trained in FAR first aid training.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)

The registered provider has enrolled in FAR training on the earliest date of April 22nd. A second staff member will be enrolled in FAR training as well once date is arranged. No preventive action was submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)

Photographic evidence of a receipt of payment for a FAR training course was submitted with the CAPA form.

Summary Comment

The above actions when implemented will address the non-compliance found on inspection in relation to Regulation 25 First Aid (1) and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(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)

There was a record available detailing the fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill was on the 26th of January 2024.

(b)

There was a maintenance records of the smoke alarms in the premises dated 26th of February 2023.

(2)(c)

The above records referred to in paragraph (1) were available for inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the premises and each of the pre-school rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There was no current in date maintenance record available for the fire equipment.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh had the fire extinguisher maintenance done. No preventive action was submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(b)

Photographic evidence of a receipt for fire equipment servicing was submitted with the CAPA form

Summary Comment

The non-compliance found on the day of inspection in relation to Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures (1)(b) has been addressed and will be reviewed on next 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 adult/child ratios present on the day of inspection ensured that the children attending the pre-school service were supervised at all times throughout their day.