

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX092
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	An Naoinra
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	89 Pineridge, Summerhill, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 X0XR
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Grainne Cooney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
<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

An Náionra is a privately operated preschool. It offers an early year setting for children to learn Irish through play. The service operates from 08:45 to 12:15, Monday to Friday and can accommodate 16 children. The aim of the service is that “learning is encouraged through a playful way using the Irish language”.

The service is located in a log cabin to the rear of the registered provider’s home. It consists of one playroom and sanitary accommodation. The registered provider’s garden is fully enclosed and set up as a play area for the children.

### Staffing

There are three staff in total working in the service, which includes the registered provider who works directly with the children. The staff working directly with the children in the service held the minimum QQI Level 5 and above qualifications in Montessori Education and Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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 (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),  
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (3),

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,  
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
Regulation 24 Checking in and out and record of attendance,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4),  
Regulation 27 Supervision and  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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*

*(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)

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The staff files for three staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See regulation 23.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were on file for the staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications at level 5 and above were on file for all staff members working directly with the preschool children.

### 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)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. During the morning there were 15 children in the care of 2 staff.

### 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)(b)

Indoors, children used the playroom which was bright with space to move about, explore and engage in activities, with well-defined interest/activity areas. There was a supply of toys and equipment stored on low open shelves in the room. Areas of interest included a home corner, dress up clothes, reading materials, art materials, puzzles, blocks and small world toys. Artwork including birthday walls and family photos were displayed. The covered area directly off the playroom had tables and chairs, a kitchen, construction toys, a doll's house and a shelf for wellies and a place to hang coats and bags.

The outside play area included a large garden directly accessible from the playroom. The garden was enclosed and had a concreted area for ride on toys, a patio area, a gardening area and a grass/lawn area. The covered area off

the playroom provided additional play space and somewhere for the children to change into their wellies and coats as needed.

The garden was well developed and resourced. It included sand pits, digging pits, a secret jungle pathway around the building, flower beds and flowerpots which were planted by the children, a small climbing frame, a slide and seating areas.

After their mid-morning snack, which the children choose to eat in the garden, the children were observed to have the choice of where they wanted to play. A small number of children choose to return to the playroom and play in the kitchen/home area. The remaining children continued with the play outside. The staff set up interest areas outside which currently includes a BBQ play toys on the patio.

The playroom had a cosy quiet corner set up for children to sit in, rest or relax. The area consisted of blankets, cushions and books. The children were observed playing in small groups, individually and with staff throughout the morning.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### **General Safety:**

The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff members, however the vetting disclosures for 3 staff members were not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **General Safety:**

The registered provider submitted the following response:

##### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

Garda vetting was applied for in respect of the staff members.

The provider will ensure that renewed Garda vetting for all staff is completed in early 2028 prior to the expiry date.

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

Copy of the three renewed Garda vetting.

### Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (3)

The staff maintained the daily attendance record for checking in and out children to the service. The registered provider maintained a record of visitors to the service.

### 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)

There was evidence to demonstrate that a staff member was trained in FAR and available to the children attending preschool.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position available for use.

### 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)

The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 28 April 2025.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in August 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

### 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

On arrival at the service the staff and children were engaged in a number of activities and play in the garden and welcomed the inspector. The children were observed to be confident and familiar with the staff and enjoyed showing the inspector around their garden and play areas.

The service ensured that all children were appropriately supervised at all times throughout the inspection. All staff were suitably qualified and had extensive experience working directly with children. The staff rostered demonstrated that the child staff ratios were adhered to for care needed under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

The children were observed to be happy and the staff discussed how the daily routine was led by the children's interests. The staff supervised children with handwashing and toileting when needed, with staff prompting

children who needed the toilet. Children who could use the toilet independently did so, with staff remaining close by to help if needed.

On the day of inspection, the staff helped the children to bring their lunch boxes outside to the lawn for the mid-morning snack after handwashing. The children and staff sat together, chatting and eating their food. Children were supervised by staff as they ate at their food. The playroom and garden which was fully enclosed allowed the children to freely enjoy imaginative play uninterrupted and the staff were able to see the children at all times.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a sessional service for 22 children.