

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017KY500
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Name of Service:	An Naionra/Preschool
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Address of Service:	Library Road, Listowel, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V31 E981
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jill Carey
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	14/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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
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Description of service

An Naionra/Pre-school is a private early years service that offers sessional care for children aged 2 years 9 months to school age. The service operates Monday to Friday providing one session between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00 pm. The service operates from 2 playrooms within a prefabricated building on the grounds of the Gaelscoil National school in the North Kerry town of Listowel. The children attending have access to a spacious outdoor play area at designated times during the session.

Staffing

There are 3 adults employed in the service to work directly with the children each day. The registered provider is on the premise each day.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety.

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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) There is the designated person in charge and a named person who can deputize as required.
- (b) At all times during the period when the preschool service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.
- (2) The registered provider confirmed that 3 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 11/02/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 3 adults were reviewed.
- (a) 5 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 1 written validated reference was on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 3 adults.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6 and above.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) Police Vetting was not on file in respect of 1 adult who resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried out in respect of the 1 adult who did not have Police Vetting on file prior to the adult was appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated that: -

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d), (3)

Police Vetting will always be requested before employment commences in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(d)

Processed Police Vetting dated 22/09/'23 in respect of the adult in question was received.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults caring for the children were present.
- (3) There were 2 adults working with 16 children aged between 4 and 5 years attending on a sessional basis in the Paw Patrol room. There was 1 adult working with 8 children aged between 3 and 4 years attending on a sessional basis in the Minion room.
- The adult child ratio was correct.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as 3 adults work each day in the service.

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) Of the 11 records inspected, 4 records had all the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The following details did not have the required detail in writing as below for 7 records inspected: -
 - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service.
 - (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 telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
 - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated that: -

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) All the registration forms have been updated to ensure that all missing information has been included and checked.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) The statement has been accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The following records were in place and maintained: -

- (h) details of attendance by a pre-school child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

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 staff members stated that healthy eating is promoted in the service in line with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service.
- The food observed on inspection included wraps, crackers, yogurts, sandwiches and fruit: - apples and blueberries.
- Prior to the children eating, an activity whereby a staff member placed the children's first names on the tables, the children identified their name and sat there or had the option of changing if they so wished. This activity was observed to be fun for the children and the staff gave prompts, guidance and re-assurance to the children.
- The service promoted an awareness of healthy eating habits amongst the children attending for example encouraging hand washing prior to eating.
- The parents /guardians supply all the food consumed in the service.
- The children were observed to have enough time to eat and enjoy their food without being rushed in any way. The children who had finished eating before the others went playing.
- The children had unrestricted direct access to the toilets located adjacent within both of the playrooms.
- The staff were observed giving gentle reminders to children to take their time during toileting.
- The children had access to rest areas in both rooms, the areas consisted of soft seating, soft cushioning and matting.
- The children had opportunities to move about freely within the playrooms and within the spacious outdoor areas that were used at alternative times to the children attending the National school.
- The staff caring for the children were kind, caring and understanding if the children's individual needs assisting with and facilitating play activities both indoors and outdoors.
- The children participated in tabletop activities, story time, practicing songs for their upcoming end of year graduation and outdoors playing with sand, using wet chalks to paint the plastic playhouse, building with blocks and with the play kitchen.

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 premise was safe and secure, the outer gate to the building complex was operated via a buzzer system that prevented children from exiting unsupervised and prevented unauthorised access in.
- The first aid boxes were stored out of the children's reach.
- Cleaning agents were observed stored out of the children's reach on high shelving and within secure high cupboards.

Infection Control:

- The children's perishable items were stored within the fridge provided on the premise.
- There was warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels provided at the wash hand basins to facilitate effective handwashing by the children and by the adults.
- Children were observed washing their hands regularly during the session for example after using the toilet, after playing in the outdoor area and prior to snack time.
- The tables used for the mealtime were cleaned down prior to and after the mealtime.
- The children's bags and coats were stored on wall hooks.
- The windows in the playrooms were open providing an adequate supply of natural ventilation.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) 3 adults working in the service with the children had current First Aid Responder training for which the certifications were on file.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
(a) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 24/05/2023.