

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017KY500
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Name of Service:	An Naíonra/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:	09/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>28</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	28	PM	None
AM	28	PM	None		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

An Naíonra is a private early years service that provides a sessional pre-school service to children aged from 2 years to 6 years. The service offers 2 sessions, 1 in the morning between the hours of 09:00 am and 12 mid-day and 1 in the afternoon between the hours of 12:30 pm and 3:30pm, Monday to Friday inclusive. The service is operating a morning session currently.

Staffing

There were 5 adults attached to the service including the registered provider, of whom 4 adults are employed to work directly with the children. 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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections 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, person in charge, 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) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a deputy named.
- (b) At all times during the period when the Pre-school service is being carried on, the registered provider and the deputy in charge are on the premises.
- (2)
- The registered provider who facilitated the inspection confirmed to the inspector that 5 adults were employed in the service.
- The recruitment records in respect of these 5 adults were the subject of the inspection.
- (a)
- Nine written references and validations were on file from a past employer.
- (b)
- One written reference and a record of validation was on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
- Garda vetting was on file for each of the 5 adults.
- The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)
- Police vetting was on file for 1 adult who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The 4 adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 and above or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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 there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.

(3)

There were 3 adults directly caring for 28 children that were attending the service on the day of the inspection. The registered provider was on the premise and provided assistance as required in the play rooms and at the outdoor play time in addition to the 3 adults caring for the children.

There were 2 adults caring for 17 children aged 3 years to 5 years in the Paw Patrol room, and there was 1 adult caring for 11 children aged between 3 years to 4 years in the Minion room.

All the children were attending the service on a sessional basis.

The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

A record in writing was maintained of the following:

- (1) (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee attached to the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (h) The children’s varied departure times were not recoded on the day of the inspection until all the children had left the service. Not accurately recording the departure times for children poses a safety risk to children in the event of a fire evacuation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (h) The service had a staff meeting and discussed the consequences of not recording the children’s exact home time. Everybody has taken responsibility to ensure that one staff member has the attendance books morning and evening.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of the children’s daily attendance records.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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

(1)(a)

Basic Needs: -

- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the playrooms.
- The proximity of the toilets to the pre-school rooms ensured that the adults were available and accessible to the children to supervised and assist the children as needed.
- The children were observed to enjoy free movement in the playrooms and in the large outdoor space during the inspection.
- The parents of the children attending the service provide the food for the snack time.
- The food observed in the Paw Patrol room on inspection included sandwiches, crackers and a variety of fruit.
- The children had ample time to eat their food in a relaxed environment with conversations between the adults and the children that included for example about trips to the Dentist and farming.
- The children who had finished before others sat on the soft ring cushions with their books of choice.
- The adults sat with the children during the snack time.
- The adults assisted the children opening food packaging and gently reminded the children to say, "please and thank you".
- The layout of the playrooms allowed for easy access to the play materials and toys that were stored on open low-level shelving and on the floor.
- The children were encouraged in developing their independence skills for example putting on their own coat and zipping them up as observed in the Minion room.
- The adult was encouraging and praised the children for their efforts.
- The adults were observed to be kind, caring and patient with the children they cared for.
- The staff comforted the children as was needed, sitting the children on their laps, re-assuring them.

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

Infection Control:

- Children's food items were stored in the fridge onsite.
- The windows were open for natural air ventilation.
- Regular hand washing by the children was observed after using the toilet and before the snack time.
- There was a supply of warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels to ensure effective hand washing to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

Administration of Medication:

- The medication observed on inspection was stored out of the reach of the children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There were low level loose cables accessible to the children in the Paw Patrol room posing a risk of injury to children.
2. There were plastic bags accessible on a low-level shelving unit in the children's toilet in the Minion room posing a risk of injury to children.

Outdoor Play area

3. The following were accessible to the children as observed during the inspection, posing a risk of injury to the children: -
 - chairs stacked on top of each other
 - loose sheets of timber
 - unsecured bait boxes
 - briars protruding from the hedging
 - an unsecured water hose reel
 - a broken plastic play kitchen
 - compost bins
 - a brown bin with an unclean red bag inside with food waste.

Infection Control:

- Staff were observed not to wash their hands after wiping children’s noses and disposing of the used tissues in the bin posing a risk of cross infection.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no parental written consent on file as is required to give prescription emergency medication in the event it was needed for 2 children attending the service, posing a risk of illness to children in the event the emergency medication was required.
- There was no care plan on file in respect of emergency medication administration for 1 child attending the service posing a risk of illness to the child in the event the emergency medication was required.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- These cables are now secured with cable ties. Multiple packets of cable ties are available in the setting to ensure the cables are secured at all times.
- The shelving unit with the plastic bags has been replaced with a large plastic box. The staff will always ensure that plastic bags are secured.
- The stacked chairs and loose sheets of timber have been removed.
 - The bait box company secured the bait boxes.
 - The briars have been trimmed.
 - The unsecured water hose is covered by a mud kitchen and no longer accessible to the children.
 - The broken plastic kitchen has been removed.
 - The refuse company was contacted to remove the compost bins and the red bag has been disposed of safely.

Infection Control:

- The issue of staff not washing their hands after wiping children’s noses has been highlighted in a staff meeting and all staff are aware of appropriate hand washing.

Administration of Medication:

- The parental consent was obtained.
- The care plan was obtained.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the secured cables and the risk assessment.
2. A photograph of the plastic bags in a sealed lidded box.
3. The statements and photographs of the corrective actions provided.

Infection Control:

4. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Administration of Medication:

5. A copy of the parental consent was received.
6. A copy of the care plan was received.

Summary Comment

All documentation received was examined. The requirement for this regulation has 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

(1) The inspector was furnished with in date First Aid Responder (FAR) certifications for 4 adults who work directly with the children each day.

(2)(a) The first aid boxes were stored, 1 in each of the playrooms, up high, out of reach of children and clearly identifiable.

(b) The first aid boxes were suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service and available for staff to attend to the children if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The inspector was furnished with the current insurance certification.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured
- the categories of insurance cover for the service that is sessional care.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 33 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'26.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(c) All areas were well lit by natural lighting and artificial lighting as needed. There was no evidence of mould, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation.

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets for the number of children and the number of adults attending the service.