

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2018CE503
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Name of Service	Naíonra Dearcan Beaga Teoranta
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Donnacha Rua, Bothar Linne, Shannon, Clare, V14 AY84
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Email Address:	clodagh_harnett@yahoo.ie
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Name of Registered Provider:	Eilish Wall
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Proposed change of service type from sessional to part-time care. Proposed increase from seventeen to twenty-two children. Proposed hours of operation 09:00 – 12:00 and 8:50 – 13:50.
Proposed Number of Children:	22 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Provision of sessional and part-time care. Provision for twenty children attending on a sessional basis. Provision for sixteen children on a part-time basis. Proposed hours of operation 09:00–12:00 and 08:50 – 13:50.
Registered change:	Additional Service Type from Sessional to Sessional and Part-Time Care. Number of children attending from 17 to 20(Max 16Part-Time) children Proposed hours of operation 09:00–12:00 and 08:50 – 13:50.

Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by:	A. McCarthy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Ennis	Early Years Inspectorate
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	Tusla Child and Family Agency
	Primary Care Centre
	Station Road
	Ennis
	County Clare

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional service for 20(Max 16 Part-Time) children
Date of Registration	02 September 2024

Authority to Inspect
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Naíonra Dearcán Beaga Teoranta was established in 2018, in Shannon, County Clare. The service proposes to change from sessional to facilitate a sessional and a part-time service. Care and education will be facilitated for children ranging in age from two to six years, Monday-Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 to 08:50 to 13:50.
Premises	The service operates from a log cabin on the grounds of Gaelscoil Donnacha Rua national school. The log cabin contains one large preschool room with sanitary facilities adjacent to the care room. An enclosed outdoor play area is provided adjacent to the log cabin. A sheltered area in the playground provides children with opportunities for outdoor play in all weather conditions.
Staffing	The manager confirmed that three adults will work directly with the children in attendance. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

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<p>Methodology</p>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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.

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The manager confirmed that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.</p>
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Part III - Management and Staff

<p>TUSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency</p>	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>3 of 10</p>
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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.*
- (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,*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The manager confirmed that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. Three adults will work with the children in attendance.

(8)(a)

The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults will be working in the service at all times.

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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Both the indoor and outdoor environments were adequately resourced for the proposed number of children that would be attending the service.</p> <p>Indoor Environment:</p> <p>The service will operate in one open plan playroom. Low level tables and chairs are located in the centre of the room. Areas of defined interest included an art/craft area, with a large art easel, paints and brushes were accessible. A large sand box was located in one area of the room. A wooden shop corner and kitchen are available for pretend play. A library corner with a selection of children books, soft seating and furnishings provided a relaxing space for the children. Low level shelving units with labelled containers provided accessible puzzles, bricks, building blocks, train sets, stencils, small animals, games, connectors and magnetic tiles. A wooden rail stored a range of dress up costumes.</p> <p>Outdoor Environment:</p> <p>The outdoor area consisted of an all-weather and bark surface. The perimeter was secured by fencing and a gate. Areas of interest included: a large pirate ship with slides a climbing frame, sand and water play tables and a wooden pretend playhouse.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>An adequate relaxation area was available for children to take a rest during the day. This area included a low-level bed with a blanket and cushions and a couch.</p>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

The manager confirmed that parents/guardians will provide the children's lunches, snacks and beverages for the children attending on a sessional and part-time basis. A refrigerator is available to store the children's perishable food items. A healthy eating policy was available to inform practice and parents/guardians of the service's procedure.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

- Internal and external access to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- Electric items were inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Warm running water was available at the wash hand basins. The water temperature was recorded as 34.6 degrees Celsius.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children.
- Fire exit routes and the passageway within the service were clear of all obstructions.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

Up-to-date records of First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available for two adults working in the service.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available and accessible in the care room for adults to use in the event of an emergency.

(b)

The first aid box will be available for use at all times.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

A fire drill template record was available in the service. Records of completed monthly fire drills were available.

(b)

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Up-to-date records were available of the number, type and maintenance service for the smoke alarm system and firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the smoke alarm system took place in August 2024 and the firefighting equipment was serviced in October 2023.

(4)

A fire action notice was available demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration office prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(a)

The service appears visually to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

	<p>The internal and external entry points were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>The service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting. The service was heated by electric heaters. The ambient temperatures of the care room and the sanitary accommodation was within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22° Celsius. Natural ventilation is available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities. This was provided by means of openable windows.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The care rooms, sanitary facilities and equipment within the service were cleaned and maintained in good condition. A cleaning schedule was available.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Two sanitary facilities were available for use by the children accommodating a toilet, a wash hand basin with running warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels and lined and lidded pedal operated bins. The adult toilet is located in the national school adjacent to the log cabin.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available for twenty children on a sessional basis and sixteen on a part-time basis. The total available floor space measured 37.92 m².</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>The registered provider ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space was available for a maximum of twenty children attending on a sessional basis or a maximum of sixteen attending on a part-time basis (age profile: three to six years).</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>The registered provider ensured that a minimum of 1.818 m² clear floor space is available for each child attending on a sessional basis. A maximum of twenty children can attend the service on a sessional basis.</p>
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