

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018LM501
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Kinderkare
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Liatroma, Castlecarra Road, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
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Eircode:	N/A
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Name of Registered Provider:	Teresa Singleton
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	21/01/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello and O Sharkey
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Naíonra Kinderkare is a private childcare service located within a primary school. It provides a sessional service from 9am to 12pm catering for children from 2 years to 6 years. A school aged childcare service is also provided. The preschool session comprises of one large room on the first floor in the primary school. A second room is used for school aged children. The service has access to the national school's outdoor area, which includes a grass area, a basketball court.

Staffing

There are three adults employed within the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the preschool children.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 28 These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued on the 22nd of January 2025 in relation to the non-availability of garda vetting for one adult on the premises. The inspectorate received an adequate response to this immediate action notice on the 5th of February 2025.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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
- (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.

Compliance Information

1) (a) (b).

There was a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(2) (a) (b).

The records of all four adults employed in the service were reviewed.

Six written and verified past employer references were available in respect of three adults employed in the service.

(c)

A garda vetting disclosure was available for three adults employed in the service.

(d)

International police vetting was provided to the inspectorate after the inspection for the one adult who had resided outside the country for a period of more than six consecutive months.

(4)

Three adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed suitable by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) (b)

One adult in the service required two validated references from the most recent past employer or in the absence of an employer a reputable source.

(2) (c)

Garda vetting was not available for one adult in the service. An immediate action notice was issued to the service regarding this on the 22nd of January.

(2) (d)

It could not be determined if international police vetting was required for one adult as no employment history was available for the adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In a written response the registered provider stated:

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a) (b)

One reference has been obtained, second reference will be sent on when received. A file for the students will be set up before they start.

(2) (c)

Garda vetting has been received and submitted to the inspectorate. Garda vetting will be in place prior to working directly with preschool children. A file for the students will be set up before they start.

(2) (d)

A C.V has been received from the student. A file for the students will be set up before they start.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2) (a) (b) Reference submitted.
- (2) (c) Garda vetting submitted.
- (2) (d) CV submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is no compliant.

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)
- There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the preschool service. There were three adults working directly with seventeen children in the morning of the unannounced inspection. There was an additional adult on a student placement in the room.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent 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.*

(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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

1) (a-i)

Ten records of the children attending the service were reviewed. The required information including the date the child first attended the service, emergency contact details, details of illness or special needs of the child were fully completed for each child.

(3) (a)

The records in writing were available for inspection by the early year's inspector.

(4)
The person in charge confirmed that the records are retained for the required period as set out in the regulations

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
- (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) (a)
On the morning of the inspection the preschool children were playing in the outdoor facility supervised by three staff members. The service has use of the outdoor area of the national school that the service is located in. This use is confined to the morning due to primary school children having access to the area at other parts of the morning. Children had access to a variety of resources including hula hoops, cones, obstacles and balls. The staff members confirmed that resources are brought downstairs each morning and other resources such as balance bikes and trikes are stored in a room upstairs. Children were observed to be content and happy in the outdoor area. Children had appropriate clothing including hats, scarfs and waterproof clothing to ensure access to the outdoor area in all weathers. The children played in small groups and individually, supported by the staff members.

Transitions to the outdoor area and to the preschool room was observed to be calm and controlled. Children were informed of the next transition, given time to respond and prepare and then transitioned. On the transition to the indoors, the staff members positioned themselves strategically to guide the children up the stairs to the preschool room, ensuing all children were in view and safe. Once in the preschool room, children washed their hands and prepared for circle time.

Circle time focussed on language development for the preschool children, songs were sung in Irish and English in which the children participated enthusiastically. After circle time, the preschool children were allowed to direct their own sense of play, moving from one interest area to the next. The preschool room was laid out in various

interest which facilitated ease of movement. Interest areas included home corners equipped with kitchens and dining table equipped with pots and pans and toy food products. A dress up area and a play shop allowed for role play. Construction area with cars, trucks and building blocks support imaginative play. Arts and crafts allowed for creativity, while tabletop activities and jigsaws supported fine motor skill development.

The staff members were observed to be supportive and attentive to the needs of the preschool children. The preschool children were observed to be relaxed in the company of their peers and staff members. Staff members were observed to be kind and gentle in their interactions with the preschool children.

(1) (b)

The service provided the snack in the service which on the day was fruit platter and crackers. Drinking water was also provided. Children were observed to wash hands prior to snack time and snack time was observed to be a relaxed and enjoyable experience. Staff members sat alongside the preschool children interacting with the children discussing various topics.

Most of the children are toilet trained and independence in toileting was promoted by the adults standing at the door of the bathroom and prompting if required. Where children are not toilet trained, in the case of a change being required, the parent is contacted to change the child. This was observed on the day.

Children with additional needs are supported in a kind and gentle manner ensuring inclusivity in the service. The staff members were observed to work well together ensuring that all children were supported as required throughout the session.

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 service is located on the first floor of a primary school. The main door is secure. Children are met by staff at the school gate and are supervised by the staff in the service to the preschool room. External doors in the school are locked and the main entrance is supervised by reception staff.
- All cleaning products in the care rooms were stored on high level shelving out of the reach of children.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.

- The preschool room was located on the first floor, suitable handrails were provided for the preschool children, and the stairwell was adequately lit with a non-slip floor covering, reducing the risks of trips on the stairs.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available for effective hand hygiene. Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including before snacks, after using the toilet and after coming in from the outdoors.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to mealtimes.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visibly clean.

Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge confirmed that no medication is administered in the sessional service.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors remained free from obstruction on the day of inspection, ensuring unobstructed evacuation in the event of an emergency.

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)
Three adults employed in the service were trained in first aid responder and available to the preschool children at all times.

(2) (a) (b)

A first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location in the care room. This first aid box was adequately stocked with equipment with an expiry date of 2027.

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.
- (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)
- The service demonstrated that emergency evacuation fire drills take place on a monthly basis the most recent on the 16th of December 2024.
- (2) (c)
- The record of fire evacuation drills was available to the authorised person on the day of inspection.
- (4)
- A notice of the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency was displayed in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b)
- The number and type of firefighting equipment and the most recent maintenance date was not available on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

In a written response the registered provider stated:

Corrective and Preventive Action

An email was sent to the school requesting a record. Fire service record sent to the inspectorate on the 26th of February once received from the school. information was received on the

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire maintenance record submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now complaint.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of a valid insurance certificate that covered 22 preschool children in a sessional service up until the 27th of November 2025.