

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019CC004			
Name of Service:	Naionra Chuain Bhaoi			
Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Bheantraí, Beantraí, Bantry, Co. Cork			
Eircode:	P75 VE44			
Name of Registered Provider:	Patrick O'Mahony			
Service type:	Part Time			
Date of Inspection:	27/09/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	3
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Social Work Dept, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork P81 PD78			
Inspection undertaken by:	M Carney			
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	N/A			

Description of service

Naionra Chuain Bhaoia is a private service which is registered to provide an early year setting for children aged from 2 to 6 years on a sessional and part time basis.

It operates both a morning and afternoon session from 08:50am to 13:20pm.

The service provides an afterschool facility from 13:30pm to 15:30 pm.

The service is situated within a large classroom in a national school on a perimeter road in Bantry, west Cork.

The service provides a playroom, toilet facilities, designated outdoor playground and additional rostered use of the national school's facilities such as the hall and astro turf tennis court.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work within the service but has employed 2 adults namely the manager and the deputy to oversee service operation.

Both adults have Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 and Level 6.

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.

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 manager, deputy and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had failed to notify the Agency in writing in relation to the change of time that the service operated, reported to be 08:30am to 13:30pm by the manager.

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)

The manager was the person in charge and worked directly with the children. An additional adult had been designated to deputise as required.

(b)

Both the manager and the deputy were on the premises on the day to facilitate the inspection. Inspection of the staff roster indicated that both adults were present on the premise whilst the service was operating.

(2)(a) & (b)

Both staff members files were examined and the following information was obtained –

There were 4 written past employer references available with 4 records of validation attached.

(c)

There were 2 up to date Garda vetting disclosures on file.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as the adults had not worked outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training were on file at Level 5 to Level 6 for the staff members.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) & (b)

It was reported that a student was availing of work experience, yet there were no validated references on file for the student.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action & Supporting Documentation Submitted

The registered provider stated that validated references had been obtained for the student. The documents were submitted to evidence this action.

In addition, the registered provider stated that going forward all future employees will have references validated prior to working in the service; and the recruitment policy had been updated to reflect this practice.

Summary Comment

Documents submitted to the early years office were reviewed and found to suitably meet the requirements of the non-compliant section of Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1)

There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2)

There were 8 children aged from 2.5 years to 4 attending on a sessional basis with 2 adults in attendance.

There were 3 children availing of part time provision with 2 adults in attendance.

The adult child ratios were correct.

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)

Each of the children's 12 enrolment forms were reviewed and the following elements of Regulation 15 was compliant –

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i).

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;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(h) A register was maintained to detail the children’s attendance on a daily basis.

(i) Staff rosters were maintained.

(j) The administration of medication recording book was examined. There were no entries to date; it was observed that a prescribed medication had been correctly documented in readiness for use as required.

(k) The service had an accident/incident recording logbook that had been developed by an agency affiliated to childcare settings. There were no entries to date.

Non-Compliance Information

(a) Information in relation the experience of the student was not on file.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action & Supporting Documentation Submitted

The registered provider stated that information in relation to the experience of the adult was obtained. Going forward, this information will be obtained prior to an adult having access to the children.

Summary Comment

The Requirement of the Regulation has been satisfactorily 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

- The parents and guardians supplied their children with all their food and drink items whilst attending the service.
- The lunch meal was eaten mid-session at approximately 10:30.
- Lunch time was observed to be a sociable event with the children seated in a comfortable and companionable way talking to their peers. It was unhurried and the children were given ample time to finish their meals.
- Children attending the services on a part time basis had additional healthy food items which were eaten at approximately 12:30pm
- Adults were observed assisting the children to organise their lunches and open cartons.
- Toileting was gently supervised by staff members and children encouraged to independently wash hands, flush toilets and discard of paper towels.
- Childrens belongings such as coats and bags were stored on child height hooks in the playroom so as to encourage independent dressing and organisation of their bags and works to be taken home.
- The service had a rest area for children to use if they wished to opt out of the scheduled activities.

Physical and Material Environment –

- Naionra Chuain Bhaoi occupied a large classroom within a national school. It was clean, airy, bright and well maintained.
- The playroom was furnished with sufficient table sized tables for the children to sit safely and enjoy tabletop activities and their lunches.
- There were many open display units which stored a wide range of play materials and equipment and which the children could easily access.

- The room was uncluttered and presented in a thematic manner; there were fine motor skill materials such as peg boards, puzzles, jigsaws, threading boards, matching games, small figurines, animals and small construction.
- There was a play kitchen with many utensils to prompt imagination and pretend play, large construction, trucks and cars, soft toys and soft balls.
- A cosy rest corner was furnished with low child sized couches and armchairs so that the children could opt out of busy activities and rest. Age-appropriate books were displayed in the rest area to encourage literacy.
- An interactive white board provided the children with fun and songs.
- Wall displays included photographs of the children's families and a striking mural of a woodland fairy scene.
- The children had direct access to a secured playground; it was not used on the day due to inclement weather conditions and storm Agnes. It was reported by the manager that the children had use of the school hall on Tuesday and Thursday for gross motor skill play. In addition, the children were very excited to have use of newly installed Astro turf tennis court where ride on toys and hoops and balls could be enjoyed.

Supporting Relations Around the Children

- Both staff members were observed to be friendly and engaging positively with each child. In turn the children were happy and familiar with their environment and routine.
- Staff members used kind and gently tones whilst facilitating play and caring practices such as supervision of toileting and overseeing the lunch time routine.
- Parents and guardians were communicated via a digital application to keep them abreast of service issues such as topics covered and service news.

Implementation of the Programme of Care

- The service delivered their programme of care through the medium of Gaelige. It incorporated play-based themes and focused on including the children's emergent interests. This was demonstrated when a child brought a picture of her favourite cartoon character from home and requested that the image was printed off so that her friends could colour in the character.
- In addition, the children confidently asked if they could have music and dance, resulting with the manager willingly playing her accordion whilst the children delighted in dance and movement.
- A visual daily timetable displayed was in the playroom. It informed that there was sufficient time allocated for free play, scheduled activities, outdoor play, lunch and circle time.
- Observations of the children were comprehensively maintained and this information in turn relayed to the parents.

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.

Compliance Information

- Naionra Chuain Bhaoi had a healthy eating policy on file stipulating that parents and guardians provided their children with all their food and drink items.
- Lunches observed being eaten were seen to be healthy, sufficient, nutritious and varied meals eaten at lunch time, for example, flat breads, wraps, sandwiches, fruits, chopped vegetables, rice cakes and yogurts.
- The children had access to their labelled water bottles which were stored on low counters which allowed them to access and help themselves to drinks when they were thirsty.

Non-Compliance Information

The children were not provided with plates or cutlery as required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action & Supporting Documentation Submitted

The registered provider stated that the children are now offered plates and cutlery whilst eating their lunches. A photograph of the children sitting and eating their lunches with plates and cutlery was issued.

Summary Comment

Documents in the form of photographs were submitted to the early years office, they were reviewed and found to adequately meet the non-compliant aspect of Regulation 22 – Food and Drink.

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:

- Naionra Chuain Bhaoi was adequately secured. An electronic buzzer system allowed entrance and exit via the main school reception area, thereby, ensuring that unauthorised access was restricted and that the children could not leave the premises unsupervised.
- The internal door to the playroom was also secured with a thumb lock system.
- The emergency exit was unobstructed.
- Staff members personal belongings were stored on high shelving out of reach of the children.
- Cables and flexes were not accessible to the children.
- The playroom had large picture windows with secured blind cords.
- Cleaning products were out of reach of the children.
- Visibility strips had been applied to the glazed door leading to the outdoor playground.

Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained. It was reported that the staff members were responsible for cleaning duties as well as an employed cleaner.
- Sanitising units were placed in both the lobby and in the playroom for the adults.
- Good hand washing practise were observed with children washing hands after toileting and prior to lunch.
- The toilet block was adjoined to the playroom. The facility was clean and well maintained. It provided 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins. There was liquid soap and paper towels for hand washing purposes. Hand washing posters were displayed to prompt the correct hand wash technique.
- There were step ups and toilet seats which were clean and well maintained.
- There was an additional sink unit situated in the art area for clean up after messy play and hand washing.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water was available and reregistered at 33.2 degrees Celsius throughout the service.
- The staff members had access to a wheelchair access toilet which was situated in the main school building. The facility was clean and well maintained.
- Tissues were available to the children for nose hygiene.

Administration of Medication:

- It was reported that the staff members were familiar with the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a child requiring medications.
- There were currently no children attending the service that required medications

Fire Safety:

- The fire door was unobstructed.
- Fire cylinders were tethered to the walls.
- In conversation with the person in charge it was reported that staff were familiar with the procedures that are required to be followed in the event of a fire.

Safe Sleep:

- The service was categorized as a part time service therefore was required to provide a sleep facility for children that may require a sleep. It was reported that a sleeping bag with linen was available.

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)

Both members of staff had first aid responder training (FAR) certification on file. The expiry dates were April and November 2024.

(2)(a) & (b)

The first aid box was stored out of reach of the children on high shelving but accessible to the staff members. On review of the first aid boxes, it was observed they were suitably stocked with the required requisites. Medications were not stored in the first aid boxes.

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 service maintained a record of their monthly fire drills which was displayed in the office. The last drill was carried out on the 20 September 2023.
- (b) A record was in place which detailed the number, type, and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms. The most recent service had been conducted recently in September 2023.
- (4)
- Fire evacuation plans were displayed to provide visual guidance of the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a fire. Staff and children were familiar with the fire assembly points.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An up-to-date insurance certificate was on file to indicate that up to 22 children were adequately insured to attend the service on a part time basis.

The expiry date was 27 March 2024