

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019MO001
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Name of Service:	Ros Na Réaltóg
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Address of Service:	Ros West, Crimlin, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F23 V008
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Name of Registered Provider:	Róisín Geddes
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Inspection undertaken by:	B Lavin & F Kelly
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

Ros Na Réaltóg was a privately owned and operated outdoor forest pre-school. The service was registered to provide sessional services for children aged between two and six years of age from 09.00-12.00, Monday to Friday. The service was based at a primary school in a rural area near Castlebar, county Mayo. There was a large, enclosed outdoor space with polytunnel shelter to the side of the premises, sanitary facilities and one playroom that was in the primary school.

Staffing

There were four staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider.

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

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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.

(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the deputy person in charge was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the deputy person in charge, it was confirmed that there were four members of staff employed in the service. Their staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were six of the required eight written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

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- (b) There were two of the required eight written and appropriately validated references available from a reputable source other than the most recent employer for the adults working in the service
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the four staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) A police vetting disclosure was available for three adults working in the service who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months as adults.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or equivalent on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained. There were 17 children present on a sessional basis aged from 2 years old to 4 years old, with 3 staff members caring for the children.

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

Basic needs:

- Drinking water was available to all children in individual beakers throughout the day.
- Children were observed eating their snack which consisted of fruit, yogurt, cheese and sandwiches in the outdoor area seated on mats or low benches. Children were supported during mealtimes with opening food items when needed. Independence was encouraged with self-help skills.
- The staff were observed sitting at the child's level and chatted in a respectful manner.
- The privacy and dignity of each child was respected during toileting.
- Appropriate rest facilities were available in the care room in the form of soft matting and cushions. On the day of inspection some of these mats were brought outside so the children could relax on and enjoy the sunshine. Children were observed spending time in this area for short periods of rest throughout the day.
- Children had access to the numerous outside areas throughout the day and children moved freely between the sheltered forest area, clear tarmac area for riding trikes and scooters and playspaces incorporated into the natural habitat of the outdoor area.
- Appropriate outdoor clothes were provided by the service. During the inspection the children spent all their time outdoors in the several well-established outdoor areas.
- The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions to sharing toys and equipment and turn taking.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination, balance, climbing, jumping and running.

Supporting relationships

- The staff members demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children. The staff members were observed offering reassurance and communicating using soft gentle tones.

- Staff supported children to engage positively with one another and the children were encouraged to engage in play activities that required turn taking and sharing. Staff members were heard encouraging children to be mindful of the feelings of those around them which promoted an ethos of friendship and working together.
- Emerging interests from the children guided the play and learning and the inspector observed imaginative and sensory play based around children making their own ramps for trucks, water play of washing toy animals and a train journey in the wooden toy train. The staff members engaged fully in this immersive play and helped to extend the play further.
- The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, including significant events and activities involving their child, for example, verbal communication at drop-off and collection times and through an online messaging service. A weekly newsletter provided parents with regular updates and photos of the activities of the week.

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 registered provider ensured that a person appropriately trained in first aid was available within the service. There were three staff members suitably trained in First Aid Responder first aid.
- (a) The first aid box was stored in an accessible manner on a high shelf in the premises.
 - (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) The first aid box did not contain the appropriate first aid supplies. The following is the list of items that were not present or out of date in the first aid box:
- Eye pads
 - Sterile wound dressing size large

- Sterile wound dressings size extra large
- Disinfectant wipes
- Sterile water
- Water based burns dressing size small and large

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The first aid box was replenished to ensure full contents were available to the children attending the service. A monthly first aid stock check has been added to the Health and Safety maintenance check list and a new policy for checking and updating the first aid box has been put in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation and evidence were reviewed by the early year's inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.

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 certification of adequate insurance which had an expiry date of 27th of March 2026.

The insurance for 22 pre-school children was for a sessional service and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- Insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Whole grapes were present in a child's lunch box. Whole grapes are a choking risk to a preschool child.
2. Perishable food items in the children's lunch were not stored in the service fridge. This is at variance with the service Healthy Eating Policy which stated perishable food items were to be stored in the service fridge. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Whole grapes were removed from the lunchbox and chopped for the child. The service has revised the safe healthy eating policy and parents informed. Staff will conduct a lunch box check on arrival to the service.
2. The Healthy Eating Policy has been revised to not permit perishable food items in the children's lunches. This information has been circulated to the parents.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Revised healthy eating policy submitted to the office of the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliances found on inspection.