

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019TY004
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Chluain Meala
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil, Irishtown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
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<b>Eircode:</b>	
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Vanessa Moriarty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	10/12/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	33	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary E91RF38
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Antoinette McNamara
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<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

The service was established in 2019 to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. A sessional service is offered through the Irish language, Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm, over 38 weeks of the year. A school aged care service is also provided on the premises. The service operates from a dedicated area within Gaelscoil Cluain Meala, currently occupying two activity rooms and auxiliary spaces used for messy play. The service is one of nine early years services operated by the registered provider in the greater Clonmel area.

### Staffing

There are currently ten staff employed to work in the service. The registered provider is not present onsite daily, however is available to provide relief cover for staff absences as required. Staff working directly with children hold qualifications at Level 5, 6 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 10 Polices

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) (4) Records in relation to a pre-school child,  
Regulation 21 Equipment and materials  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety and  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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,
- (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

(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) On the day of the inspection the service manager was the designated person in charge and there were two named people available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) The person in charge or their deputy were rostered to be on duty each day at the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two written and validated references were available for all 10 staff working at the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 10 staff members. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) There were 10 staff working directly with children who held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education, or a qualification deemed equal.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The following policies were assessed for compliance and were deemed to meet the necessary requirements:

- Accident and Incident policy
- Healthy Eating policy
- Settling in
- Outdoor play
- Use of internet, photographic and recording devices
- Infection control
- Statement of purpose and function

### 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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

### Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.
- (3) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection met the requirements of the regulations. During the morning session there were 33 children being directly cared for by 10 staff across 2 rooms.
- (4) There were always at least 2 adults on the premises.

### 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.*
- (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

A sample of completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.
- (4) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

## Compliance Information

The service consisted of two large, bright pre-school rooms which were well resourced and maintained with a wide range of toys, materials and furniture suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as Montessori work, playdough, puzzles and eating at snack time. The rooms had a number of defined interest areas which included books, large building blocks, art and craft materials, a dolls house, a medical station, and a range of other age-appropriate toys which were inviting and stimulating for children. There were low level open shelves around the room where Montessori work, jigsaws/puzzles and toys were easily accessible to the children. The children's arts and crafts decorated the walls. The service was decorated for the Christmas season.

## 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 roster demonstrated that the manager planned for FAR trained staff to be present throughout the hours of opening.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

## 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.*

## Compliance Information

1)(a) There was a written record of regular fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2024.

(b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. A fire register was maintained for these records and all records associated with fire safety in the service. The firefighting system had an annual service in August 2024. Next service due in August 2025.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

## Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate was available for inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place.