

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020CC009		
Name of Service:	Naíonra na Mara		
Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Chionn tSaile, An Cappagh, Chionn tSáile, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P17 VF84		
Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Ryan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	19/06/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy		
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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Naíonra na Mara provides a sessional Naíonra service to children aged between 2 and 6 years. It is located on a Gaelscoil premises close to the town of Kinsale, Co Cork. The service is open 9am and 12 midday each weekday. The Gaelscoil premises is a single storey modular building and Naíonra Na Mara occupies 1 care room that was purposely adapted as a childcare setting.

Staffing

The registered provider and 2 other adults are attached to the service. During the inspection, the registered provider and 1 adult were present, and both were working directly with the early years 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/ premises and facilities. The inspections 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 registered provider, 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,*
- (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 service had a named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider who was the named person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- The registered provider confirmed that two adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 14 December 2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a)(b) There were four references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 2 adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 2 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as neither of the adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the adults.

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)
The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(3)
On the day of the inspection there were two adults working with 18 early years 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

(1)(a)

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The care room was noted to be bright, airy, and comfortable. It was furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving, and a variety of play equipment that were all in good condition and met the needs of the children.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that all play materials, play equipment and arts and crafts materials were rotated on a regular basis to facilitate the children's emerging changing needs, skills, and interests.
- The play materials and equipment were all set up attractively at a child's height level to promote independent visibility and accessibility by the children themselves.
- Varied interest areas were set up in the care room such as the rest area, home areas with dolls and figurines, dress up section, the play castle, construction play area, blackboard, arts and crafts areas, tabletop activities, library rack and play dough. The adults supported the children to participate in the activities that they the children were interested in and provided them with opportunities to be creative and participate in imaginary play with their peers.
- The care room walls were decorated with craftwork and paintings carried out by the children that were based on their own interests and choices such as trees, the titanic ship and free style art. It was noted that other wall posters and interest areas in the care room were all labelled in Irish.
- There was a comfortable rest area provided that was used by children when they wanted some quiet time, quiet chat or to have a little rest.

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

- The food for the children’s snacks was provided by the children’s respective parents or guardians.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that she provided the parents and guardians with regular verbal and written information regarding healthy food choices for the children’s snack break.
- During the inspection it was noted that the food ate by the children was appetising and healthy. The mid-morning snack consisted of a variety of sliced fruit and brown bread sandwiches.
- Drinking water was always easily accessible to the children. The children’s individual bottles of water were stored on a low table in the care room and were always readily available to the children.

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

Infection Control:

- Detailed cleaning programmes were in place and available for review by the inspector regarding the care room and the outdoor play area. It was noted during the inspection that the premises, equipment and play materials were kept in very clean condition.
- Regular independent handwashing was carried out by the children before eating, after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Crockery was available to the children during their mid-morning snack break to prevent cross contamination.
- A fridge was available in the care room for the storage and safe management of the children's perishable food.
- The children's bags, coats and personal belongings were stored on wall hooks and on shelving. The children's spare clothes were stored in individually labelled pockets of a wall rack.
- Paper tissues were available on a low table to facilitate the children in attending to their own respiratory hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.

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 service provided evidence that one adult had training in first aid response (FAR) and that this adult always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available on the premises and it was stored on a high wall rack out of children's reach.

(b) The fully equipped first aid box was always available on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was displayed on the notice board situated at the room entrance and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 22, the start date, the end date, the category of service covered which was sessional service and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.