

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020WD001
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Name of Service:	Tir na Nóg
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Address of Service:	Carrowleigh, Carrick-on-Suir, Co Waterford
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Eircode:	E32 Y796
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Name of Registered Provider:	Barbara Byrne
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	02/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Tir na Nóg full day care service is located in a rural setting of Rathgormack county Waterford. A service is provided to children aged between 1 and 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07:30 and 18:30 hours (including a sessional service from 09:00 to 12:00 hours for 38 weeks of the year). A registered school age care programme is also provided onsite. The premises is a detached building with three early years care rooms, sleep room, kitchen area, bathroom facilities for staff and children. There is a large outdoor play area at the rear of the building that is directly accessed from the premises. This is a sister service of Kilsheelan Playschool in south Tipperary.

Staffing

There are currently eight employed to work in the service. On the day of inspection there were five staff working in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. Staff working directly with children hold qualifications at level 5 and above 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/ safety/. 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 Policies

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,
Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) Records in relation to a pre-school child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
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,*
- (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 a named deputy designated person in charge who was able to deputise, as required.
- (b) The deputy designated person in charge was present for the inspection.
- (2)The staff files for eight new staff were reviewed on the day.
- (a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working at the service.
- (b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from other sources such as previous schools and colleges.
- (c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.
- (4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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:

- Outdoor play
- Healthy eating policy

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 were adequate staffing levels to respond to the children's needs on the day of inspection.
- (2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection met the minimum regulatory requirements.

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

A sample of 10 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.

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 main door to the service had to be opened by a staff member. The outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area. Pinch guards covered the hinges on all doors to prevent injury to children. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules kept. Suitable handwashing and drying facilities were available in the children's and adult's sanitary facilities. This included warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. The nappy changing area was clean and well kept. Disposable gloves, aprons and cleaning products were available in the nappy changing area. There was also a fresh air supply in the nappy changing room.

Children brought their own food to the service and perishable foods were stored in a fridge.

Administration of medication:

Medication records were available with details of any medication to be given with signed parental consent.

A care plan was documented for a child with an allergy detailing the procedure to follow in the event of an allergic reaction, including the medications to be administered. Medication supplied by parents were stored out of reach of children.

Safe sleep:

Each child who required sleep had a dedicated cot to use. Staff were familiar with best practices in safe sleep. Children were monitored while they slept, and physical checks were carried out at 10-minute intervals. These checks were recorded on individual sleep records for each child.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

1. There was a loose blind cord on the sleep room window which posed a safety risk to children.

Infection control:

2. Cots and floor beds in the sleep room were not placed 50cm apart. This posed a potential risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General safety:

Blind cord has been secured to the wall.

Infection control:

Cots have been repositioned to 50cm apart.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection control:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Corrective actions have been accepted and will be assessed in practice on next inspection.

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) There were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

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.