

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D:	TU2021GY003							
Name of Service:	Naíonra Realt na Mara							
Address of Service:	Scoil na bhForbacha Cnocán an Bhodaigh Na Forbacha Galway							
Email Address:	naionrarealtnamara@gmail.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Mr. Seán Breathnach							
Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed service type:	Sessional							
Proposed Number of Children:	22							
Registered service:	Registered Sessional service for 22 children							
Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	8	2	0	2	1
Inspection Undertaken by:	Ms. F Nic Dhonnacha							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway, Co. Galway.							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								

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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional service for 22 children
Date of Registration:	31 st August 2021

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	This proposed preschool aims to offer an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional pre-school care programmes from 9.15hrs to 12.15hrs, from Monday to Friday, for children aged between 2 years and 6 months to 5 years of age. The service proposes to cater for a maximum number of 22 pre-school children at any one time. The service proposes to provide early childhood education through the medium of Irish in the Gaeltacht area. The proposed ethos of the service is for a child centred play based preschool curriculum that aims to “provide quality early education to children and prepares them for primary school”.
Premises	The proposed preschool playroom is located on the grounds of Scoil na bhForbacha. The preschool service is behind the school in a separate building. There is 1 proposed playroom namely ‘an naíonra’. A designated outdoor play area is to the side of the proposed preschool playroom for children’s play, exploration and fresh air with views of Galway bay.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider was on the premises on the day of the inspection. The proposed registered provider will be supernumerary and not in the preschool premises on a daily basis. It is proposed that 2 adult staff including the childcare manager will work directly with the children. Both adult staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5. The proposed adult staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The inspection focused on regulations under three themes: Governance, Safety and the Premises. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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.

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Acknowledgement

The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and adults who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 6 – Registration of pre-school service

- (5) A person making an application under section 58D(2) shall enclose with the form set out in Schedule 2 or 3—
- (a) A copy of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of —
- (i) the person
- (ii) where the person is a body corporate, each director of the body, and
- (iii) where the person in charge is different to the registered provider, the person in charge,
- (b) in so far as is practicable, where a person specified in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (a) has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, vetting information in respect of the person obtained from the police authorities in that state
- (c) 2 references in writing in respect of himself or herself that demonstrate that he or she is a suitable person to provide a pre-school service, including one from his or her most recent employer, if any, or where the person is a body corporate, two such references in respect of each director of the body,
- (g) a copy of —
- (I) The policies, procedures and statements specified in subparagraphs (a) to (f) of paragraph 1 of Schedule 5, and
- (II) The safety statement (within the meaning of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005) of the service (if any).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(5)(a)(b)(c)(g)

This regulation has been reviewed and accepted by the Registration office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The requirement has been met.

The service has a proposed person in charge and a proposed named deputy.

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.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
 - (b) *a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and*
 - (c) *a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Requirement met:

- (1)
The registered provider proposes that there will be a maximum of 22 pre-school children, aged 2 years and 6 months to 5 years being cared for by 2 adult staff, at all times. It is proposed that the minimum ratio of adults to children will be maintained in the preschool playroom.
- (8)(b)
Not applicable, as this service is not a child-minding service.
- (c)
Not applicable, as this service does not intend to operate a single-handed sessional service, as 2 adult staff are proposing to work in the service at all times.
Additionally, the registered provider is the named emergency person.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

- (1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*
 - (a) *having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
 - (b) *there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
 - (a) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or*
 - (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—*

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- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or
- (b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph (4), the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The Registration office of the Early Years Inspectorate has been provided with a plan with regard to this proposed preschool service.

- Adequate and suitable facilities will be offered for play in the classroom / preschool playroom and in the outdoor play area.
- The indoor playroom was comfortable, clean, visually pleasing, and inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and adult staff in the service.
- The playroom had various interest areas. Equipment, toys and materials were at children's level for them to be fully accessible to the children, visually and physically.

Items included

- a cosy corner with a child size couch, bean bags,
- a library with a selection of books,
- a home corner with a wooden kitchen, oven, tea pots, crockery and utensils,
- a puppet box with a selection of puppets,
- a dress up rail and clothing,
- an art and crafts area with paints, trays, markers, a blackboard, art and craft holders,
- playdough with shape cutters and rollers,
- musical instruments and floor puzzles,
- a construction area,
- a transport area with cars, trucks and garage station,
- building blocks, jigsaws, small world items, threading and beads,
- a playhouse with small world items, cots, buggies and dolls,
- a shop with a cash register,
- a nature area with natural items including turf and acorns,

- Additionally, there was threading material, insets, shapes, boxes, letters, pins, the alphabet, beads, shells, scoops, farm animals, mirrors, fairies, straws and connectors.

The proposed registered provider advised they intend to develop these interest areas further.

(b)

Adequate facilities for rest and sleep were in the proposed service for the number and age range of children attending. The playroom had a wipeable soft seating area to allow children rest and relax when required.

(2)(a)(b)

The proposed registered provider had ensured that suitable, safe and secure grass outdoor play area was available to the pre-school children at the side of the pre-school premises.

- The outdoor play area has an artificial grass and bark surface, with concrete paths and secure wooden fencing.
- Play equipment and materials included 2 sand and 1 water basin, a large clay filled planter area, a watering can, garden tools and flower shaped chalk boards.
- The proposed registered provider has advised that extra outdoor play equipment and materials including bicycles, tricycles, helmets, balls, child size toy lawnmowers and tools were stored in a designated storage bunker and would be rotated on a seasonal theme basis.

(3)(a)

The proposed registered provider advised that children will have access to the outdoor play area on a daily basis. The outdoor space was observed to be suitable, secure and no safety hazards were noted on the day of Inspection.

(b)

Facilities for outdoor play were provided on site.

(4) Not applicable, as the proposed preschool will operate as a sessional care service.

(5) Not applicable, as the proposed preschool will operate as a sessional care service.

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.

Requirement Met:

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The external door was secured by a keypad and buzzer access lock system to prevent the general public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.
- Emergency doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- The roller blinds were secured and fastened thereby posing no risk to preschool children.
- In the outdoor play area, there were no pits or ponds to cause any risk of danger to preschool children.
- All flexes, cables and cords were out of reach of children and or secured.
- Storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to prevent preschool children having access to chemicals or cleaning agents.
- The water supply in the children’s sanitary area was thermostatically controlled.
- A system for checking toys and equipment was in place i.e., that they were not broken, clean and maintained in a good state of repair.
- A health and safety policy was available which included a risk assessment system.
- There was a fridge for the storage of perishable items from children’s lunch boxes for their snack/ mealtimes.
- Proposed parents and guardians had been advised of the service’s drop off and collection policy.
- The proposed registered provider had an attendance book to be kept for the daily attendance of the children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the playroom, sanitary areas and outdoor play area.
- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43°C.

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- A supply of hand sanitiser was available at various stations throughout the building.
- A designated isolation area was available if an adult staff member or a child attending the service should develop Covid-19.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks, aprons and gloves were available.

SAFE SLEEP:

- There was child size soft seating where children could rest or relax if they so choose.

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—
- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- 1 adult staff member had a first aid qualification for children.
- (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and was stored in an easily accessible position in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)
 - Arrangements are in place to record monthly fire drills.
 - A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment
The fire equipment and smoke alarm system maintenance certificates in the service were issued following inspection dated 24/08/2021.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the notice board at the entrance to the classroom playroom.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

There was a copy of the insurance quotation available for the sessional service with 22 children from 4/03/2021 until 28/02/2022.

A copy of which was given to the registration office and will be enacted once the proposed preschool service opens on 06/09/2021.

A copy of the insurance certificate was received into the registration office on the 2/9/2021, the insurance is valid from 1/9/2021 to 28/2/2022.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met

(a) From a visual inspection the premises was of sound and stable structure.

(b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure.

There was a buzzer/ keypad system at the main door of the service.

(c) There was natural and artificial lighting in the classroom playroom.

There were 7 windows and glass doors along two outer walls and artificial covered long ceiling lights in the classroom playroom.

The playroom was well ventilated by means of openable windows and doors.

The under-floor heating was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the playroom stays within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature and no greater than 43°C.

(d) The premises new play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.

- Cleaning equipment was safely stored away in secure cupboards and inaccessible to the preschool children.

- The proposed playroom play and work equipment were new, clean and in good state of repair.

- There was a proposed cleaning schedule and cleaning checklist for the playroom, sanitary area and outdoor area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The proposed preschool playroom was adequately rodent proofed with no gaps or spaces noted around windows, doors and pipework to allow rodents enter. (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There were 2 designated toilets with 2 wash hand basins in the sanitary area. – An additional wash hand basin was available for children’s use in the proposed classroom playroom. – There was 1 separate designated adult staff toilet and wash hand basin. – Foot pedal bins were provided in the sanitary areas and playroom.
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.
- (4) 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 clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>(1) The proposed registered provider of the proposed sessional pre-school service ensured that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space was available for each child attending the service. The square meters of the room 52.87 square meters. Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed playroom / classroom for the free movement of children to work and play.</p> <p>(2) Not applicable as proposing to operate a sessional service.</p> <p>(3) Not applicable as proposing to operate a sessional service.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable as this service is proposing to operate only a sessional service.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable as this service is proposing to operate a sessional service.</p>
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