

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2021KY002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Le Chéile
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil Mhic Easmainn, Killeen Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 Y973
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Timothy Crean
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/04/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>09</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	09	PM	None
AM	09	PM	None		

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
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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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Naíonra Le Chéile is a private early years service that is registered to provide part-time and sessional care for children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The service is currently operating between the hours of 9.00am and 12 mid-day Monday to Friday providing the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme for children between the age of 3 years and 5 years. The premise consists of a purpose-built modular building located on the grounds of the national school. There is a designated outdoor area for play, that is fully enclosed located at the rear of the premise allocated to the children attending.

### Staffing

There are currently six adults attached to the early years service, five of whom are involved in the direct care of the children. This includes one adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme. There are two students on work experience in the service. The registered provider is not service based and does not work directly with the 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 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 is a designated person in charge and a named deputy who can deputize as required on the premise.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premise.
- (2)
- The person in charge on inspection confirmed to the inspector that four adults were employed in the service. In addition, two students are undertaking work experience in the service.
- The recruitment records in respect of these six adults were the subject of the inspection.
- (a)
- There were six written references and validations on file from a past employer.
- (b)
- There were six written reference and validations on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
- The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of each of the adults.
- (d)
- Not applicable as none of the adults had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 and above.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.

(2) The service was operating between the hours of 9am and 12pm. There were 2 adults caring for 9 children aged between 4 to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The minimum number of adults to children was maintained at all times.

(8)(a) There are 2 adults on the premise during the hours of operation.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

#### Compliance Information

(1) There was an electronic record held for each of the 9 children enrolled in the service. Each of the 9 records had the required detail as per(a) to (h).

#### Non-Compliance Information

The following was not recorded for each of the 9 children attending the service: -

(i)written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

It was acknowledged the service furnished the inspector with an email demonstrating that the requirement for the said consent was issued to the parents to complete on the afternoon of the inspection.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency was drafted and circulated to the parents immediately after the inspection, all the parents have returned the permission. The software developers who provide the software used in the service have been advised to add the required permission to the digital enrolment form also.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of the said permission obtained from the parents.

#### Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider did ensure that a record was kept of the following in relation to the service:

- (h) An electronic record of the children’s attendance on a daily basis.
- (i) An electronic record of staff rosters on a daily basis.

## 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

- The children had ample opportunities to move about freely and explore the spacious indoor playroom on inspection.
- The room was colourfully decorated with for example a variety of artwork the children had completed in the service.
- The children were observed using the toilets independently, with the staff on hand to provide assistance if required. The toilets were located within the playroom providing for easy access for the children.
- The children’s individual toileting needs were met in a timely and discreet manner.
- The staff were observed to interact with the children in a kind, caring, supportive manner. The children sought support of the staff and the staff were prompt in responding to individual children’s needs.
- The staff were sensitive to individual children’s needs, to play on their own with their chosen favourite toys that were placed at their level to play with them as they wished during the session.

- The children engaged in free play time for example, dressing up in the costumes provided, table top activities such as playing with playdough, shapes, rolling pins and at the tuff tray filled with rice and sand.
- The children's food for the mealtime was provided by the parents, the food observed on inspection included sandwiches, rice cakes, a selection of fruit, yogurts and cheese.
- The children took turns distributing the lunch boxes at the mealtime. They sat down at the low-level tables that were arranged to seat the children as one large group.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to eat and drink and assisted the children with opening food packaging as was required.
- The atmosphere during the mealtime was relaxed and ample time was afforded to the children to eat their food.
- The children had access to their individually labelled drinks bottles on low level shelving in the room. The inspector observed children helping themselves to drinks during the session.
- The rest area in the room consisted of a large couch and bean bag. The inspector observed children sitting here during the inspection, some taking time away from activities and some reading and doing puzzles.

### 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 internal playroom door was appropriately secured with a high-level keypad device to prevent children exiting unsupervised.
- The main entrance door to the premise was secured to restrict unauthorised access.
- The emergency exit/fire door was unobstructed.
- A secured wall mounted high-level medicine cupboard was in the playroom for the safe storage of medicines.
- The surface temperature recorded for 1 of the 3 wall mounted electric heaters in operation was 33.2 degrees Celsius.

### Infection Control:

- Adequate handwashing facilities that included warm running water, liquid hand soap, paper hand towels and pedal operated lidded bins were accessible at the wash hand basins in the service.
- The children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and prior to the mealtime with the staff helped the children as was needed.
- A fridge was used to store the children's perishable food items in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The children played in the school yard located at the front of the premise. The gates within this area were not secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access in.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The children are only permitted to access the building's back garden for outdoor play time. The garden area is secured and equipped with age-appropriate toys and equipment for the pre-school children. Under no circumstances are staff permitted to take the children to play at the front of the building. This was an error of judgement on the day of the inspection and is not the norm. The issue was discussed with the staff who were reminded again that children are not permitted to access the front yard and only to use the back garden area. The staff had previously been made aware of this.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

The statement is accepted as evidence.

### Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

### 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 Inspector was informed that 2 adults working with the children each day had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training with the certifications in respect of these on file.

(2)

(a) There was a first aid box stored in a secure cupboard in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and out of the reach of the children.

### 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.*

*(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -

(a) An electronic record was maintained for each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place 01/03/2024 prior to the Easter recess.

- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm.
- The records on file demonstrated the last check for the smoke alarm was 24/02/2024 and the record in respect of the firefighting equipment was received in the office of the early years inspectorate completed on 19/04/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was displayed in the entrance hall area.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider.
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service stated sessional with afterschool.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'25.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

#### Compliance Information

- (c) Openable windows were in place and open in the sanitary accommodation and in the playroom to ventilate the rooms. The air temperature of the playroom was recorded at 19.6 degrees Celsius and the sanitary accommodation air temperature was recorded within the range of 18 and 18.2 degrees Celsius.