

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021KY003
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Naomh Séamas
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Naomh Séamas, Douglas, Killorglin, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 PH28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sean O'Mahony
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	14/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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 Naomh Séamas is a private early years' service that is registered to cater for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The service currently caters for children aged between 2 years 9 months and 5 years. The service is open between the hours of 9 am and 12.30 pm Monday to Friday.

The service consists of 1 spacious playroom that is located within Gaelscoil Naomh Séamas. It has a designated enclosed outdoor play area that is available to the children each day.

Staffing

There are 5 adults employed in the service. This includes 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme and the registered provider, who does not work in the service 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.

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*, deputy 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 person who can deputize as required.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge and the named deputy are on the premises.
- (2) The person in charge confirmed that 5 adults were employed in the service, the recruitment records for these adults were reviewed.
- (a) 9 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 1 written validated reference was on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 5 adults.
- (d) Police Vetting was on file for 1 adult who 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.*
- (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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service 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.*

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 present.
- (3) There were 3 adults working with 13 children aged between 2 years 9 months and 5 years attending on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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

- (1) There was a sample of 10 records inspected, each record had all the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

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

- The adults caring for the children were kind and caring, they spoke to the children in low soft tones of voice.
- The adults interacted in a positive way with the children for example they sat at children's level, maintained eye contact, demonstrated empathy and a good understanding of each child and were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- They promptly assisted children in their individual toiletry needs in a discreet, calm and caring manner.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the room.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement in the spacious playroom and in the designated enclosed outdoor play area on the day of the inspection.
- The children had the opportunity to rest, relax or opt out of an activity during the session on the matting and allocated seating.

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 provided was in line with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service. The parents of the children attending provided the food at mealtime. The food observed consisted of sandwiches, pasta, dried and fresh fruit.
- Rolling snack time was provided for the children attending. A designated lunch table was positioned near the fridge and the allocated coat and lunch bag storage area.
- The children had individual laminated placemats and sat on their seat of choice and they had the opportunity to take the time they wanted to eat their food in an atmosphere that was unhurried and that promoted social interaction between the children and the adults.
- Drinking water was available for the children throughout the session on the low level “bord deoch”.

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 cleaning products were stored out of the reach of the children.
- The outdoor play area designated for the children was secured so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing by the children was supported prior to eating and after toileting.
- There was warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels for effective hand washing by the adults and the children.
- The perishable food items were stored in the fridge to prevent food spoilage.
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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On arrival to the service the door into the building and the door of the playroom were not secured to prevent unauthorised persons into the room and from children exiting unsupervised.
2. There was 1 fire extinguisher free standing and accessible to the children near the adult desk posing a risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

3. The carpeted floor covering and the large carpet mat in the playroom were stained and unclean posing a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The designated person in charge stated that: -

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Signage has been placed on the said door to remind all staff to pull the lock across after each opening. Staff will continue to be reminded to secure the door.
2. The fire extinguisher has been attached to the wall and should it happen again it will be re-attached immediately.

Infection Control:

3. The floor covering is on the priority list of works to be completed in the building within a timeframe of approximately 6 months. The carpeted floor covering is hoovered daily, it is steam cleaned monthly and a spot cleaner is used as when necessary. The large mat was removed from the room and a new mat was ordered.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the signage on the door was submitted.
2. A photograph of the fire extinguisher attached to the wall.

Infection Control:

3. A letter provided by the principal was submitted, it stated that the Board of Management have placed the replacement of the floor covering as a priority.

Summary Comment

The requirement for the regulation has been met. The above will be the subject of inspection on the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1) An electronic record of the children's daily attendance in the service was in place and completed.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were 4 staff members that had up to date First Aid Responder completed and the certification in respect of same was on file.

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) A template to record each fire drill that had taken place in the service was filed electronically. The last recorded fire drill took place prior to the summer recess on 07/06/2023.
 - (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 30/08/2023 and the firefighting equipment was 29.09.2023.
- (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 on file.

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
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24.

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*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Compliance Information

- (a) The premise appeared to be sound and stable.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. There was gaps in between some of the outdoor soft matting tiles in a section of the outdoor area that were installed since the last inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The designated person in charge stated that: -

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The matting was pushed back together. It will be maintained and will be pushed back together.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. A photograph of the matting after the work completed as stated was submitted.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.