

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022DL003
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Name of Service:	Niall Mor Childcare
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Address of Service:	Clara House, Killybegs, Co Donegal
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Eircode:	F94 RV10
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Name of Registered Provider:	Conor Conaghan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	10/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM	25
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate. Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore Co Offaly.
Inspection undertaken by:	Ann Spain.
Title:	Registration Support Manager.

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

Niall Mor Childcare is a community run early years' service located in the coastal town of Killybegs in north Donegal. The full day care service opened in November 2022 to care for children in the age range 0 to 6 years. Children currently in attendance are in the age range 9 months to 3 years. The service is operational between the hours of 7.30am and 6.00pm and is under the governance of a board of management. The leased rooms in the service are located on the first floor of a community building with a direct and separate entrance from the occupied rooms at ground floor level. The rooms in use include a baby, wobbler, junior and senior toddler rooms, three separate sleep rooms, three nappy changing rooms with childrens sanitary accommodation, two separate staff toilets, a kitchen, two office areas, a cleaning store room, a storage room and an area in the front hallway to store buggies in use in the service. An enclosed outdoor play area is provided at the side of the service. Parking is available directly outside and at the front of the service.

Staffing

The service is currently staffed by 15 adults with qualifications in childcare varying from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 to level 8. An additional staff member is employed to work daily in the kitchen in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 Management and recruitment, regulation 11 Staffing levels, regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child, regulation 22 Food and drink, regulation 25 First aid, regulation 26 Fire safety measures, and regulation 28 insurance. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

The scope of the inspection included all rooms in the service.

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 noncompliance 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
 - (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- (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 has both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designed person in charge worked in a management capacity in the service and provided relief cover as required. The deputy person in charge was assigned to work in a playroom in the service and to provide relief cover. Both staff members were present in the service on the day of inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service with staff allocated to care for children in designated rooms and to provide relief cover as required. Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities and worked as teams in their allocated playrooms.
- (2)(a) Validated references from past employers were held on file and available in connection with all of the staff working in the service.

- (b) A second validated reference from a source other than a past employer was held on file in respect of staff with one past employer reference.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were held on file in respect of all staff working in the service as conducted during 2020, 2021 or 2022 in respect of the various staff members.
- (d) A police clearance was held on file in respect of two staff who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as adults.
- (4) Staff working in the service had childcare qualifications at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 in respect of four staff, level 6 in respect of five staff, level 7 in respect of three staff and level 8 in respect of the remaining three staff members. There was also evidence including certification on file to confirm that staff members had engaged in continuous professional development. A student was supernumery in the service on the day of inspection.

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) An adequate number of adults were available throughout the day of the inspection to care for the number of children present in the service.

(2) Three staff cared for one child aged 0-1 years and 7 children aged 1-2 years in the baby room during the morning in the service. A further four children were taken on a walk in two double buggies by two staff members. Three children remained in the baby room after 3.30 pm with two staff members present. Two staff members cared for nine children in the age range 1-2 years in the wobbler room during the morning in the service. Seven children remained in the room after 3.30pm and were cared for by two staff members.

Two staff members cared for eight children in the age range 1 to 2 years in the junior toddler room in the morning in the service. Five children remained after 3.30 and were cared for by two staff members.

Fifteen children in the age range 2 to 3 years were cared for in the senior toddler room in the morning with three staff members present. Ten children remained after 3.30 pm with two staff members.

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 following measures were observed on the day of inspection to ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

Basic needs.

Three separate sleep rooms were provided to ensure that each child cared for in the service for both part time and full day care availed of rest and sleep as required. Ten cots were provided in the sleep room off the baby toddler room. Four cots were provided in the baby sleep room. Four sleep mats and five low level beds were provided in the sleep room used to rest and sleep the older toddlers in the service. On the day of inspection children had their individual cots and beds for sleep. Staff were observed to remain in the sleep rooms to both settle children and to monitor sleeping children.

It was observed that childrens hands were washed under supervision in the junior toddler room prior to dinner. Children enjoyed their warm stew dinner. It was observed that a child in the senior toddler room who did not want stew was offered an alternative dinner of mashed potato and soup. Staff in the senior toddler room engaged in conversation with the children during dinner time and offered the children more to eat, as necessary. Children in the room were observed to move freely to play with building blocks and tractors while other children were given time to enjoy and finish dinner at their own pace.

The children in the rooms were time tabled to use the outdoor play area on a staggered basis to ensure that all children in the four care rooms availed of outdoor play and fresh air daily. The staff compliment allowed children

in rooms to be divided into smaller groups to avail of outdoor play and rest as required by the children in the rooms. Seven children from the senior toddler room were taken for outdoor play after dinner while seven children requiring sleep were taken to the sleep room to rest as necessary and a remaining child availed of free play indoors. Individually labelled baskets were observed in the wobbler room to ensure that sheets and cellular blankets were not shared between sleeping children. All weather rain gear was provided by parents and guardians to ensure that children were taken outdoors during inclement weather conditions.

The service had a stock of double buggies and children cared for in the baby room were taken for walks daily on a rotational basis by two staff members using two double buggies.

The three separate nappy changing rooms in the service were equipped with a stock of disposable plastic aprons and gloves and staff were observed to wear the protective clothing and wash their hands after nappy changing. Older children were observed to be walked individually to the nappy changing areas while the staff engaged in friendly conversation and supervised the children for hand washing after nappy changing.

Supporting relationships around children.

The atmosphere in the service was relaxed with staff observed to be kind and caring to the children in their care. Staff were observed to listen to the children and to respond to each child on an individual basis and at the child, s level. Staff in the baby room sat at floor level with the children building blocks and blowing bubbles during the morning in the service. “Song time” was used in the room to calm the children as they prepared for dinner in the room. Staff in the junior toddler room were observed to assist children as they made jigsaws, play with coloured rice and play on the floor in groups in the room.

An L shaped couch in an open area in the hallway in the service was used by staff to take small groups of children from rooms to both read books and play games.

The daily routine in the service offered the children predictability and staff signalled transitions to give children time to complete activities and to prepare for meal and rest times. Feedback was given to parents and guardians daily at drop off and collection times by key workers in the playrooms. A daily diary was maintained in each room to record each child, s rest, feeding and toileting patterns as well as activities they participated in during the day. The diary offered staff the opportunity to indicate to parents items required by their children and provided a two way conversation between the staff member and the home setting. A “vision board” inside the entrance door to the service was used to display childrens art work which was taken home weekly. An electronic communications application was also on trial in the service as a means to share information with parents and guardians.

Physical and material environment.

The rooms in the service were brightly painted and openable windows ensured that both natural day light and a supply of fresh air directly into the rooms was available. All play rooms had a good supply of toys and equipment

located on open shelving for children to easily access. Defined areas of interest in the play rooms included play kitchens and home corners, dolls house and construction areas. Animals, figurines and toys on wheels which were age appropriate for the children in the various rooms were available. A range of games, puzzles and jigsaws provided problem solving and manipulative play resources for table top activities. Arts and crafts paper, colours, paint and shapes were provided. Children in both toddler rooms enjoyed pouring activities with coloured dried rice on the day of inspection. The playrooms with the exception of the baby room were furnished with low level tables and chairs for children to sit for learning and play activities and meals times in the company of their friend and staff members. Soft floor mats, a wall mirror and a balancing stand was provided in the baby room to encourage babies and staff to sit and engage in conversation in the room. A ball pool, tent , mobiles ,foam balls, musical instruments, sensory play items and soft toys were provided for children to play with at floor level in the room. An adult chair in the room provided suitable seating for a staff member to sit and both comfort and feed babies which was observed on the day of inspection.

The outdoor play area was safely and securely fenced in by high level concrete walls and heavy duty wire mesh with access from the hallway outside of the playrooms. Wheel along toys, slides and rocking horses were located on an all-weather surface. A sand and a water tray were provided in the concrete surfaced area which was safely secured in by concrete walls and cast iron fencing.

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

Breakfast, snacks and an evening meal were prepared in the kitchen in the service. A hot dinner was prepared in the nearby main service and delivered daily to the service. An oven in the kitchen was used to keep food for dinner hot prior to service in the playrooms. Breakfast comprised of fruit, toast and both water and milk to drink. Dinner at 12 to 12.30 pm comprised of beef stew, broccoli and mashed potato with milk and water to drink. Evening tea comprised of sandwiches, crackers with butter, cheese and jam. The kitchen was equipped with refrigerated storage for perishable foods, presses for dried foods and both cooking and reheating facilities. Wash up and hand washing facilities were provided. Plastic bowls, plates, cutlery and containers were available for children's meals and drinks.

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 was a staff member trained in first aid available to the children at all times.

(2)(a)(b) First aid boxes were available in all playrooms in the service and were stored above child height in all rooms.

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 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A record of fire drills as conducted in the premises was on display in the hallway and it was observed that the last monthly fire drill was conducted on 2 May 2023.

(b) The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system indicated that a service was conducted in April 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each playroom.

Part VI - Safety


Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 45 children in daily attendance in a full day care service. Insurance was valid from 28 March 2023 to 27 March 2024.

	<p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</p> <p>QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2022DL003</p>	<p>10 of 10</p>
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 <p>An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency</p>	<p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</p> <p>QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2022DL003</p>	<p>11 of 11</p>
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