

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2022LH001

**Name of Service:** Tír na nÓg

**Address of Service:** 6 Churchill, Louth Village, Co. Louth

**Eircode:** A91 KD8F

**Name of Registered Provider:** Danille McGinty

**Service type:** Childminder

**Date(s) of Inspection:** 23/01/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<b>AM</b>	3	<b>PM</b>	5

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Child Wellbeing Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

**Inspection undertaken by:** M.Flood

**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

### Description of service

Tir na nÓg was established as a registered child-minder in August 2022. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of five pre-school children at any one time and operates from 07:00 - 18:00 daily.

The service is conducted from the registered providers own home in a residential setting in Louth Village, Co. Louth. The premises consists of a 2-storey end of terrace family home. The rooms used by the childminding service include the kitchen/dining room, the sitting room which has been set up as a playroom and the sanitary area which are all located on the ground floor. The family bathroom is located on the first floor. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the property however, this is not currently in operation.

### Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the preschool children on a daily basis. One additional adult also provides assistance as required.

### 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 and safety The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 12, 19 and 25 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

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 would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member 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) The service had a designated person in charge who is also the registered provider and a named person to assist in the event of an emergency.

(b) The registered provider and emergency contact person were both on the premises when the inspector arrived at 10:50 to carry out the unannounced inspection and were present for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)&(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available for the registered provider, the emergency contact person and the contracted music teacher who visits the service on a regular basis.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting disclosure was available for the registered provider, emergency contact person and the contracted music teacher who visits the service on a regular basis.

(d) Documentary evidence of international police vetting was available for each of the 3 adults who attend the service.

(4) The registered provider and emergency contact person who work directly with the pre-school children attending the service held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education that meets at least the minimum required qualification.

### 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,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) When the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 10:50 there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(8)(b) A 2<sup>nd</sup> person familiar with the service was present together with the registered provider when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 10:50.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 12 - Childminders

*(1) A childminder shall ensure that-*

*(a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,*

*(b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and*

*(c) there is a working telephone on the premises.*

*(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) When the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 10:50 there were 3 preschool children attending the child-minding service. Two more children arrived at the service at 12:15.

(b) Following a review of the children's attendance records, all children attending the service were over 15 months of age.

(c) A working telephone was available on the premises.

(2) Not applicable as all children attending the service on the day of the inspection were over 15 months of age.

## 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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

#### Basic Needs of Infants and Children

- The personal care provided met the needs of the children attending the service e.g. noses and faces were wiped as required and soiled clothes were changed.
- Healthy eating is promoted in the service. All snacks are provided by the registered provider and included a variety of fresh fruit and yoghurts. The hot meal on the day of the inspection was chilli con carne and rice, and this was provided by an external catering company and then reheated in the service. The inspector was also advised that parents also have the option to provide meals from home if they wish.
- Child led sleep needs were facilitated on the day of the inspection. Each child who showed signs of tiredness was put down to sleep when they needed a rest in the sitting room which was converted to a sleep area. The children were also observed to access the soft couch for a rest or during story time.
- Nappy changing was carried out regularly and promptly. Warm interactions and reciprocal conversations were observed during this time. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to be independent, with gentle reminders given for handwashing.

### Supporting Relationships Around Children

- The registered provider and a 2<sup>nd</sup> staff member were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. The children were observed to actively seek out the staff by name when they needed care and attention.
- Parents were informally communicated with at drop off and collection times. The registered provider stated that most communication with parents is carried out through social media, discussions at drop off and collection time and phone calls if required.

### Physical and Material Environment

- There was a variety of play materials and equipment for the children to access. The equipment was suited to the ages and stages of development of the children present and promoted many areas of child development. For example, a variety of books and story time promoted language development. The children were observed to engage in a playdough making activity which promotes sensory experiences and fine motor development. A variety of table top and coordination promoting activities including block building and train tracks.
- The play materials in the care room were visible and easily accessible to the children on open low-level shelving. This enabled the children to take and return materials as they chose and facilitates children in having independence in their learning.
- Although not accessed during the inspection an enclosed outdoor area was available to the rear of the premises. The registered provider also stated that the children access the local playground on occasions.

### Programme of Activities

- During the inspection the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with.
- It was observed that the children's language and social development were supported through one-to-one discussions, conversation at snack and mealtimes and also during story time and singing songs.

## 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

The Inspectorate is not assured that adequate steps have been taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service for the following reasons:

#### Safe Sleep

1. While it is acknowledged that a member of staff was present in the room when 4 children were put down to sleep, ten-minute safe sleep observations were not being documented appropriately. For example; the sleep observations were documented as “all children” and one observation was being recorded rather than a documented observation for each child every 10 minutes.

#### Infection Control:

2. The children’s hands were not washed after nappy changing procedures.

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

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

1. Sleep Checks completed on each individual child, are documented separately. Each Child has an area on each page for their own checks and abbreviated phrases are labelled on top of each page for clarity.
2. Children have hands washed after toileting and nappy changing. A sign has been placed above the nappy changing area as a reminder to Educator to wash hands after every nappy change.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence of documented safe sleep observations.
- Photograph of hand-washing sign.

#### Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliances together with supporting documentation. Based on the information submitted the non-compliances have been addressed. Implementation and sustainment of the preventative action plan detailed will require assessment at the 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) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children, was at all times available to the children attending the service. Documentary evidence was available of an up to date First Aid Responder (FAR)
- (2)(a) and (b) The first aid box available in the service was adequately stocked and stored in a conspicuous location where it was easily accessible in the event of an emergency.