

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022WX002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra na Síolta Óga
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil Moshíológ, An Chraobhach, Bóthar Charn an Bua, Guaire, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 VP62
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Daíriona Ní Mhuirí
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	13/02/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	NA
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Naíonra na Siolta Óga is registered as a part time service and operates Monday to Friday for children aged 2 to 6 years of age and can accommodate up to 22 children at any one time. The service is located in the Gaelscoil in Gorey and consists of a large playroom, toilets and outdoor play area. Naíonra na Siolta Óga is an Irish speaking preschool service.

### Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children in the service and was present during inspection. There are two staff employed in the service. The designated person in charge is onsite daily and another named person is available to deputise as required. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education

### 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4) and  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 registered provider, 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)(b)

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The staff files for three staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosure were available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

### 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)(2)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. In the morning there were 19 children in the care of 3 staff.

### 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.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The service consisted of one playroom with its own designated toilets. The room and play equipment were of good quality and suitable for the age and stage of the children using it. The wide variety of materials supported different types of play offering various levels of challenges to children. Children were observed to access toys and materials from low shelving and had space to move around the room unrestricted.

The service had a designated outdoor play area for the children at the side of the school building. The area was fully enclosed. The area was grassy with gravel areas. There were mud trays, compost trays, sandboxes, climbing frames, a water butt, digging areas and ride on toys. The outdoor toys were stored in a small shed. The children changed into wet gear and wellies for outdoor play and were observed to thoroughly enjoy the messy, tactile and sensory play opportunities of the outdoor play area.

(b)

The room had a cosy area with a small sofa, and an area with soft mats and cushions set up if a child required a rest.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

The playroom was bright and warm with natural light from the large windows. The room was equipped with low shelving and containers of toys accessible by the children. The tables and chairs were suitable to the ages of the children using them. The designated interest areas in the room were well-resourced and thought out and included a home corner and library.

Staff described how the areas of interest changed with the children's current interests. For example, the children were enjoying imaginative play with large cardboard boxes, which they had painted, glued and cut up. The room had a family wall, birthdays and the daily routine displayed in the room. There was sufficient space within the room and included a cosy area which had a sofa and soft mats. Drinks were located on a small stand, so children easily access them as they wanted.

## 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 entrance doors were secured on the inspector's arrival to the service. There was an intercom system to allow access. The service had their own designated entrance. The outdoor area was secure and fully enclosed. The storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were restricted to children.

##### Infection Control:

Children were observed washing their hands before eating their snack, after outdoor play and after toileting. Staff were overheard reminding children of handwashing requirements if they had forgotten. There was liquid soap, warm water and paper hand towels available for handwashing. Up-to-date and completed cleaning records were viewed in the room.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency and detailed individual care plans. There was an identified safe area in the room for the storage of medication.

## 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 were staff trained in FAR and first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

## 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)(a)

The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 29 January 2025.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in March and November 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.