

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2023DL001

**Name of Service** Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair Teo

**Address of Service:** Ionad Naomh Padraig, Letterkenny, Donegal, F92 EH6N

**Email Address:** ionadnp@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Máire Uí Chomhail

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** The service proposes to increase the number of children that can be accommodated at any one time from 10 to 16.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 16

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Increase the number of children to 16

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 10 to 16 children

**Date of Inspection:** 0 9 0 7 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** L Mc Glynn

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Part-Time Service for 16 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair Teo is a part time service offering care to children aged 3 to 5 years from 12.00pm to 4.00pm each weekday. The service is also registered to provide school age care.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located within the building of Ionad Naomh Pdraig in the rural townland of Dobhair in County Donegal. The service operates from one main care room on the ground floor with access to a large indoor sports hall and dining room. There is an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises fully enclosed with a boundary fence.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are four staff members employed to work in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. There is a person in charge of the daily operation and a second person to deputise in their absence.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit</p>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	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.*

#### **Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The room leader was the designated person in charge and there were two additional staff members named to deputise when required.

### 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.*

#### **Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that four staff will be employed to work directly with the proposed maximum number of 16 children.

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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable indoor play facilities were in place for the number and age range of children proposed to be catered for. There was one large playroom which presented as a bright and visually appealing space. There was an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials. A large supply of equipment was in storage on the day of inspection to facilitate the summer camp. It was confirmed that during the preschool year the equipment currently in storage was available to the children in the care room. These included arts and crafts, construction, small world toys, a play kitchen, problem solving toys and wide range of manipulate play resources. Open low level shelving units were available in the room to allow all items to be readily accessible to the children. Suitable sized tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

(1)(b)

Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available. There were three large couches in the care room for children to relax on during the day. The service also had a supply stackable floor beds to cater for children’s sleep needs if required.

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(2) (b)

A large outdoor play area was located to the rear of the community building and contained ground covering consisting of natural grass and concrete paths. The area was secured with boundary fencing and housed a large poly tunnel for planting, a mud kitchen, wooden playhouses and a large wooden climb, slide and swing unit. Children also had access to an enclosed astro turf area providing ample space for children to engage in active, physical play.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

Children are served a hot meal each day which is prepared and cooked on site in the kitchen of the main community building. There was a four-week menu plan available which contained a range of healthy, nutritious meals. The kitchen was equipped with adequate facilities for the preparation and storage of food. Potable drinking water was available, and the inspector was informed that children bring individual bottles each day which can be refilled if required.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- The entrance door to the care room had a keypad lock system preventing unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child.

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- The outdoor play area was secured with surround fencing and a single exit gate.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school room was easily identifiable by emergency exit signage. All designated emergency exits were observed to be clear and unobstructed.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service's sanitary accommodation.
- All toys and play resources were noted to be clean, in good repair and were appropriate for children's use.
- There were no electrical hazards observed.
- Window cord blinds were secured and there were restrictors on low level windows leading to unsecured areas.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available throughout the service and the main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children's play areas.
- The room and sanitary accommodation presented as clean and well maintained. Cleaning products were stored in an area inaccessible to children.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been partially met.

- (2) (a) (b) A first aid box was positioned on a high-level shelf in the playroom. The box contained a supply of first aid equipment with additional items available in the main community building.

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<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(1) There were no staff members with in-date first aid responder certification. This is a minimum requirement to operate the service.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1) We have arranged first aid responder training on 19, 20 and 21 August.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	Evidence was submitted to the inspectorate on 27 August 2025 to demonstrate that staff members had completed first aid responder training therefore this requirement has now been met.

### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There was a mechanism in place for recording fire drills.</p> <p>(b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available with both having been serviced/tested in July 2025.</p> <p>(4) The procedure to follow on the event of an emergency evacuation was on display at exit points.</p>
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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

An insurance certificate was available detailing a part time early years' service for up to 16 children with an expiry date in March 2026.

### 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,*
- b. safe and secure,*
- c. kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- d. cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- e. equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Requirement met:

- (a) On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound and stable structure with no visible defects. The person in charge confirmed that they had no concerns about the structure or stability of the building.
- (b) The main entrance door was secured with a keypad lock mechanism. The exit doors in the building and exit gate from the outdoor play area were secured in a manner which prevented children from exiting unsupervised.
- (c) Adequate lighting was provided. Natural lighting consisted of large windows, glass panelled emergency exit door and glass panel in the entrance door in the playroom. Artificial lights consisted of ceiling lights encased in protective covers. An adequate source of heating was provided

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	<p>in the playroom and sanitary accommodation via oil fired central heating.</p> <p>The air temperature was within the recommended 18 -22°C range.</p> <p>(d) The premises presented as clean and subject to routine maintenance work as required.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of adults and children that will be in attendance.</p>
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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.</p> <p>(2) The room measured 79.3m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space which was adequate to cater for the proposed number of 16 children.</p>
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