

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2023DL002

Name of Service: Naíonra Páistí Sásta

Address of Service: Devlinreagh, Carrigart, Letterkenny, Donegal, F92 E680

Email Address: paistisasta@outlook.com

Name of Registered Provider: Evelyn McClafferty, Mary Ann Coyle

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Change in number of children from 22 to 44 using one additional preschool room.
Proposed Number of Children:	44
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in number of children from 22 to 44.
Registered change:	Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 44.

Date of Inspection:	1	4	0	5	2	0	2	4
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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

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional for 44 Children.
Date of Registration	17 th June 2024

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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).

Description of Service	Naíonra Páistí Sásta is a preschool service located in the grounds of the local national school in the townland of Devlinreagh, Carrigart. The service operates through the medium of Irish and provides both part time and sessional care for children aged 2-6 years. The morning part time service runs from 8.00am to 1.00pm with the sessional service operating from 9.15am to 12.15pm. The evening session operates from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.
Premises	The service is operated from a dedicated room within the primary school building. Accommodation includes one large playroom, a sensory room with connecting storeroom and sanitary facilities for adults and children. The service is applying to operate from an additional room, also within the primary school building. A large outdoor play area is available on the premises with sanitary accommodation adjacent to it.
Staffing	There are five staff members currently employed to work in the service, two of which are employed in a relief capacity when required. It is proposed that four staff members will be rostered to work during the hours of operation following the approval of the requested change.
Methodology	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. 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 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.

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Acknowledgements

The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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:

(1) (a) The requirement has been met. There is a named adult charge of the daily operation of the service. A second adult is named to deputise in the event of their absence.

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:

(1) This requirement has been met. It is proposed that a minimum of four staff members will be employed to work directly with the preschool children. The allocation of staff to children outlined by the proposed registered provider is accepted as meeting the required adult child ratios.

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:

The requirements of this regulation were met.

(1)(a)

The proposed new preschool room was a bright, welcoming and spacious environment equipped with a range of age-appropriate learning materials for children. The room was laid out in a manner that provided a range of interest areas for children to explore and each interest area was well resourced to facilitate children’s independent play. The interest areas included a farm area, home/kitchen area, a doll and baby care section, construction items, art/messy play area, sand and water tables and a reading area. Open low level shelving units were used to provide accessibility to play resources while suitable sized tables and chairs were provided for table-top activities.

The range of play materials and equipment available in the room provide opportunities for all types of play experiences including play that promotes children’s cognitive and fine motor development, role and imaginary play, creative and messy play. There was space between each area to allow free movement of children and to allow small groups of children to play together.

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The children will have access to a designated outdoor play area which is well resourced to facilitate a range of different play opportunities for children. A large section on entry to the area is covered with a light permeable roof and houses wooden picnic style seating, large wooden platters with flower and vegetables. The open air section included play equipment such as ride on tricycles with a mapped out cycle route away from other active play facilities. There was a climb and slide frame and a swing unit in another area. A wooden shed that has been converted into a play house. Extending on one side from the playhouse is a walk-in pebble area and sand and water tables. The surround fencing contained various interactive features.

(1)(b)

There is a designated sensory room with large bean bag style seating and dimmed lighting to provide a calming restful space for children on an individual basis or in a small group. The service also has low level floor beds to provide sleep facilities for children if required.

(2)(b)

The outdoor play area was fully enclosed by high level wooden boundary fencing and a metal gate preventing unsupervised exit.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

Children will avail of breakfast on arrival which will be provided by the service. All other food consumed by the children will be brought in from home and additional supplies are available in the service to supplement children's lunches if required. The service has a healthy eating policy in place for parents. Milk and water will be provided by the service and available to children throughout the day.

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 following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

- Appropriate measures were in place to ensure that children could not exit the premises unsupervised, or adults could not enter without permission. The main entrance door to the service was secured with a keypad lock entry system. The corridor doors leading to the main school building are to remain secured at all times. A magnetic closure system was used to secure these doors which allowed for quick release if exit via this route was deemed necessary.
- All radiators were covered with fixed wooden guards to prevent the risk of burns.
- The hot water supply at children's wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled to not exceed the maximum safe limit of 43°C.

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- Main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children’s play areas. Foot pedal operated bins are available within the room and the sanitary accommodation.
- Cleaning equipment and products were stored in an area inaccessible to children. There is a facility in place to document cleaning procedures with the service.
- All exit routes within the service were free from obstruction.
- Toys and play resources were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for children’s use.
- Impact resistant surfacing was provided around high rise equipment in the outdoor play area.
- A wash hand basin is available in the room with liquid soap and paper towels to facilitate hand hygiene practices throughout the day.
- A fridge for storing children’s snacks which contain high risk ingredients is available in the room.

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:

(1) Evidence of two staff members first aid certificates that are employed to work directly with the preschool children was reviewed by the inspector and were observed to have an expiry date of July 2025.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided for the room. The first aid box was clearly identifiable and easily accessible in the storage area.

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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met

(1)(a) Provisions were in place for documenting fire drills in the service.

(1)(b) A record of the number and type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm systems were furnished.

(4) Notices of the evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the room.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.

The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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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:

The requirement has been met

(a)

The premises consists of a single-story block building designed for the provision of a primary school. The service currently occupies one end section of the building and have applied to operate from an additional room further down the corridor. On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound structure with no visible defects. The registered provider confirmed that they have no concerns over the stability or structure of the building.

(b)

The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry. There is a separate entrance door into the building for the service which is secured with a keypad entry system and a magnetic release system.

(c)

Adequate natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting was provided in all areas. Artificial lighting consists of fluorescent strip ceiling lights in the playroom and hallway with circular dome ceiling lights in the sanitary accommodation. Lights were fully encased in protective covers.

The playroom and sanitary accommodation were provided with radiators which are connected to the oil fired heating system for the whole school building. The air

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temperature of each area when checked at inspection was within the recommended range of 18 – 22°C.

The playroom contained large windows which each had an openable panel at the lower end.

(d)

The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The building is connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning.

(e)

The premises was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children off the playroom. Each toilet cubicle is sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. A nappy changing unit and wash hand basin is available for use within the main school should a child require changing while attending the service.

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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.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.
- (2) The proposed additional preschool room measured 63.026m². The required floor space for a maximum number of 22 preschool children in the proposed age range attending on a sessional or part time basis has been met.