

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 Proposed Registered Provider: Mary Ann Coyle and Evelyn McClafferty

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

Proposed service type: Part Time & Sessional Service

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Outcome of the F06 Inspection: The service will be registered to provide a part time and sessional preschool service for a maximum of 22 children aged 2-6 years. The operating hours will be 8.00am-12.30pm and 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

Registered service: Registered Part Time/Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	7	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by: L McGlynn

Title: Early Years Inspectorate

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Child and Family Agency, St. Conals Campus, Kilmacrenan Rd, Letterkenny, Donegal. F92 TD92

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Part Time/Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Registration: 9th August 2023

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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 proposes to provide part time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years through the medium of Irish. The service will operate two sessions each weekday, one between the hours of 8.00am and 12.30pm and the second from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. It is also proposed that a school age service will be provided.
Premises	The service is proposed to operate from a dedicated section within a primary school building. Accommodation includes one large playroom, a sensory room with connecting storeroom and sanitary facilities for adults and children. A designated outdoor play area will be available to the children on site.
Staffing	It is proposed that both registered providers will work directly with the preschool children. One will be the designated person in charge and the second will be the deputy in their absence.
Methodology	<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 two 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 the registering application. 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.</p>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered providers who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that a minimum of two 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—

- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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 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 is space between each area to allow free movement of children and to allow small groups of children to play together.

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 has also ordered low level floor beds to provide sleep facilities for children if required.

(2)(a)

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 Children in Pre-School Services

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.

It is proposed that children will avail of cereals and toast on arrival which will be provided by the service. All other food consumed by the children will be brought in from home. 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.

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- The hot water supply at children’s wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled to not exceed the maximum safe limit of 43°C.
- 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 intended to be 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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been 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

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to have an expiry date of August 2023. It was stated during inspection that these were due to be renewed the following week.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service. The first aid box is clearly identifiable and easily accessible in the lobby area.

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 carried out once the service commences.

(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:

Full insurance was provided to the Registration Office, valid from 28/08/23 until 27/03/24 covering a maximum of 22 children on a part time basis.

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 Naíonra are to occupy one end section of the building. On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound structure with no visible defects. The registered providers 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 Naíonra which is secured with a keypad entry system and a magnetic release system. Entry into the rest of the national school was closed off via double doors which are secured via a magnetic release system should access be required. The release mechanism is set at a level above children’s reach.

(c)

Adequate natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting was provided in all areas. The playroom contained four windows along one wall of the room which provides natural light to all areas of the room. Frosted glass windows were provided in the sanitary accommodation and sensory room. Artificial lighting consists of fluorescent

strip ceiling lights in the playroom, hallway and sensory room and circular dome ceiling lights in the sanitary accommodation. Lights were fully encased in protective covers.

The playroom, sensory room and sanitary accommodation are provided with radiators which are connected to the oil fired heating system for the whole school building. The air temperature of each area when checked at inspection was within the recommended range of 18 – 22°C.

The playroom contained four large windows which each had an openable panel at the lower end. The sanitary accommodation for children and adults contained openable windows in each toilet cubicle and in the lobby areas.

(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 third wash hand basin is available in the room for children's use. 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.

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 size of the proposed preschool rooms ensured that 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.