

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 Providers: Evelyn McClafferty & Mary Ann Coyle

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

Proposed change:	<p>The service proposes to move the base for the room operation from the outdoor space to a base in the school hall.</p> <p>Increase the number of children cared for from 44 to 66 by providing an additional room in the school building.</p> <p>The service proposes to increase the number of staff from 2 to 8 staff</p>
Proposed Number of Children:	66
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	The service be approved to care for 66 children across the two existing rooms in the service and a proposed additional room.
Registered change:	<p>Change in number of children from 44 to 66 children</p> <p>Change in number of staff from 2 to 8 staff</p>

Date of Inspection:	2	3	1	0	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. R35K1W4
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 66 Children
Date of Registration	31 st October 2025

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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	<p>Naíonra Páistí Sásta is a part-time service in operation from a rural area of north Donegal. The service cares for children in the age range 2 to 6 years and currently accommodates children between the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years.</p> <p>The registered provider offers a combination of sessional and part-time childcare based in a school building and an outdoor space, which has an enclosed space and a poly tunnel on-site to facilitate children to play indoors. A sessional service is staggered between 9.15am and 12.15pm in the outdoor space and between 9.20am and 12.20pm in the room in use in the school building. The service proposes to provide an additional sessional service in a separate room in the school building between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30pm. A part-time service is provided between the hours of 9.20am and 2.20 pm from the room in use in the school building. A part-time service is offered in the outdoor space between the hours of 12.15 and 2.15pm for children after sessional hours in the outdoor space. Children from the room based in the school building that is seeking registration will join the children in the outdoor space to avail of their part-time service between the hours of 12.30 and 2.30pm. The proposed additional room for the sessional service is used for a school age service between the hours of 2.00 and 6.00pm.</p>
Premises	<p>The service comprises of a playroom for the sole use of a preschool service which is located in the school building. A sensory room and toy store are also available directly off the playroom. An outdoor space with an enclosed shelter and a polytunnel for an indoor base is also available. The outdoor space is provided with a green field area, an area with a bark finish dispersed with willow trees, a smooth tarmac area, a poly tunnel with planting boxes to grow vegetables and herbs and an open shelter which has an all-weather ground surface, a combination of timber and concrete walls and a roof made from heavy-duty cladding. The proposed playroom to accommodate the additional children is also located</p>

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	<p>in the school building. A storeroom for toys is provided off the proposed playroom. Sanitary accommodation is provided for children off the two playrooms which are located in the school building. Children assigned to the outdoor space use sanitary accommodation in the hall. Sanitary accommodation for staff, coupled with nappy changing stations for childrens use, are provided in the main school building. Both the playroom in use in the school building and the proposed playroom in the school building have separate enclosed play areas directly off the rooms.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service is staffed by eight adults. The registered provider also works directly in the service.</p>
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 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 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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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:

This requirement has been met

(1)(a)

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as 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:

This requirement has been met.

An adequate number of adults are proposed to work directly with the children in attendance in the service as follows.

Three staff members are available to work directly with 22 children in the age range 2 years six months to five years for sessional care with up to 12 remaining for a part-time service in the existing playroom in the school building.

Four staff members are available to work directly with 22 children in the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years for sessional care in the room operating from outdoor space with an enclosed area and polytunnel for indoor space.

Two staff members are available to work with up to 22 children in the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years for sessional care in the proposed playroom in the school building.

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Four staff members are available to care for up to 22 children in the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years who combine after sessional hours in the existing registered service and remain in the service for part-time care.

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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met

(1)(a)

There are adequate facilities for the proposed number of children to play both indoors and outdoors in the service. The playroom in the use in the school building, the proposed playroom in the school building and the open shelter in the outdoor space are furnished with low level tables and chairs for children to sit for play activities and for snacks. Toys and play equipment in all areas are located on low level shelving and stored in containers for children to easily see and choose to play with. Paints, colours, pencils, shapes and paper are provided for arts and crafts work. Blocks and bricks of different sizes and dimensions, connecting toys, farm sets, tools sets, miniature toys on wheels are provided in construction and imaginative play areas. Home corners are provided with playhouses, dolls, prams, tea sets, play cookers and cooking equipment

and utensils. A variety of jigsaws, puzzles, games and cards are provided for tabletop activities. A sensory room equipped with soft furnishings is provided off the existing playroom in the school building. A storeroom is provided off the three separate play areas to store toys and play equipment not in everyday use and to rotate depending on the seasons and the emerging childrens interests.

(b)

Soft floor mats, soft cushions and books located on low level stands and shelving are provided in both the existing and proposed playroom and in an open timber house in the outdoor space for children to retreat from activities and rest as required.

(3)(a)

Separate outdoor play areas are provided off the three play areas in the service to facilitate simultaneous outdoor play when weather permits and at times of children's choice in the individual rooms. The play area outside the existing playroom in the school building is enclosed at the side of the school building by concrete walls with direct access from the playroom. The outdoor play based space is enclosed by a combination of heavy duty wire fencing and timber fencing. The room operating from the outdoor space proposes to use the school hall as an additional base during inclement weather conditions. There is direct access to the hall from outside of the school premises. The outdoor play area off the proposed playroom in the school building is enclosed by concrete walls.

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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.

Refrigerated storage is provided in the proposed playroom and the existing rooms to store perishable foods and snacks provided from home for children in attendance in the service. Water and milk to drink and snacks comprising of fruit, vegetables and crackers are also provided by the service.

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.

There is direct access to the proposed playroom from outside the school building. The door is secured, and glass panels allow easy visibility of all approaching the room. The storeroom off the proposed playroom and high level presses in the playroom provide a suitable location for the storage of cleaning agents and chemicals that are outside of childrens reach. A sink is provided in the playroom to assist with cleaning in the room. Wall hooks are provided to store childrens coats and bags off the floor.

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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 met.

One staff member working in the service has up to date FAR (first aid responder) training with an expiry date of the 6 October 2026. It is acknowledged that the registered provider also submitted written confirmation on the 28 October 2025 to confirm that three further staff members are availing of FAR training on 31 October 2025, 1 November and 2 November 2025.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box is wall mounted in the proposed playroom and is both accessible to staff and available to children cared for in the room.

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.

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- (a) A record is maintained of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service. Records confirm that a fire drill took place on the 22 October 2025 in the existing playroom in the school and on the 20 October 2025 in the room operated from outdoor space.
- (b) The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment located in the proposed playroom and existing playrooms confirms that an annual service was conducted in August 2025. The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system in the school building confirmed that a service was conducted on the 23 September 2025.
- (4)
- A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is wall mounted in the proposed playroom. A fire assembly point for both the proposed playroom and existing service is wall mounted on a concrete wall at the front of the school grounds.

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.

The service has insurance cover for a maximum of 66 children in daily attendance in a full day care service. Insurance cover is valid from the 14 October 2025 to the 27 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:

This requirement has been met.

- (a) The proposed playroom is in good state of repair and maintenance with no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. Windows and the door entrance from outside of the building appear to be both water and weather tight when closed.
- (b) A smooth concrete ground surface and a ramped grab rail leads to the entrance to the proposed playroom from outside of the building. The service is connected to the mains drinking water supply. The septic tank drainage system close to the poly tunnel at the rear of the service is safely and securely fenced in by heavy duty wire fencing.
- (c) Openable windows coupled with fluorescent light fittings which are covered with shatterproof diffusers, ensure a good mix of both natural and artificial lighting and ventilation in the proposed playroom in the service. The gas fuelled radiators in the proposed playroom are provided with guards which are safely anchored to the walls.
- (d) The proposed playroom is brightly painted with a washable paint. The floor is finished with a washable smooth timber finish. Bins for the temporary storage of refuse are stored on the school grounds and in an area that children have no access to. The service has a pest control contract for rodent and vermin control, and records show that the last visit to the service took place on 1 October 2025.
- (e) Two toilets and two wash hand basins are available off the proposed playroom for use by up to 22 children in daily attendance. Two toilets and two washhand basins are provided off the existing playroom in the school building. Four toilets and four

	<p>washhand basins are provided off the school hall for children cared for in the outdoor space. Two toilets and two washhand basins are available across the service for up to nine staff in daily attendance in the service, including the registered provider. Openable windows are provided in the sanitary accommodation for ventilation purposes. The washhand basins adjacent to the childrens and staff sanitary accommodation off the proposed playroom are provided with thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins.</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.

(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides –

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate floor space is provided in the proposed playroom to accommodate an additional 22 children in the service.

(4) An area of 57.49m² is provided in the proposed playroom to accommodate up to 22 children in daily attendance in the service for sessional care.