

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



**Tusla I.D:** TU2023DL004

**Name of Service:** Naíonra na mBeachóg

**Address of Service:** Scoil Naisúinta Mhín Tine Dé, Ard an Ratha, Donegal.

**Email Address:** ray@cnng.ie

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Ray Mac Phaídín

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>	√	<b>Drop-In</b>	
	<b>Sessional</b>	√	<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Part time, Sessional.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	22
<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b> (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Service registered to provide sessional preschool and part time care for up to 22 children. The sessional service will operate from 9.00am to 12.00md and the part time service will operate from 9.00am-2.00pm.
<b>Registered service:</b>	Registered Part Time/Sessional Service for 22 children.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	2	0	8	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection Undertaken by:** L. McGlynn

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

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

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### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Part Time/Sessional Service for 22 children.
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> August 23

### 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>	Naíonra na mBeachóg is a new proposed pre-school service situated in a rural area outside the town of Ardara in west county Donegal. The service will operate through the medium of the Irish language and is located within the grounds of the local primary school. The service proposes to provide both sessional and part time care to children aged between two and six years and will operate from 9.00am to 2.00pm each weekday. A school age service will also be provided.
<b>Premises</b>	The service proposes to operate from a single room within the local primary school with adjacent sanitary accommodation. The preschool room will have its own entrance independent of the school which leads directly out to a secure outdoor play area.
<b>Staffing</b>	There will be two staff members employed within the service to work directly with the children. The registered provider is not on the premises on a daily basis, there will be a named person in charge and a second person to deputise in their absence.
<b>Methodology</b>	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 four 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

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed person in charge who was 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There will be a named designated person in charge and a named person appointed 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.

(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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service proposes to cater for a maximum of 22 preschool children on a sessional basis and 16 on a part time basis. There will be two staff members employed. The allocation of staff to children currently enrolled is accepted as meeting the required adult child ratios.

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(2) The registered provider confirmed that they are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will at all times work directly with the number of children attending the service.

### 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:

(1)(a) This requirement has been met.

Having regard to the number and age range of preschool children which the service proposes to cater for and the amount of time they spend on the premises there were adequate and suitable indoor play facilities in place.

The large, spacious playroom contained an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials set into clearly defined areas of interest. These included arts and crafts, construction, tabletop, small world items, dress up props, a play kitchen area, a relaxing area with books, problem solving toys and manipulative play resources. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children and suitable sized tables and chairs were available for play activities and mealtimes.

Adequate and suitable outdoor play facilities were in place with a dedicated area at the rear and side of the building fully enclosed for children's play. Ground cover consisted of tarmacadam. The area was sufficient in size to accommodate a large group of children to engage in gross motor physical play such as ball games, cycling,

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	<p>running and jumping. Play equipment in the area consists of ride on trikes and bikes with plans to further develop the area when in operation.</p> <p>(1)(b) Stackable floor beds were available for children to sleep if required and were equipped with appropriate bedding.</p> <p>(2) (a) The boundary of the outdoor play area was secured with both stone walls and fencing. The location of the outdoor play area on site allowed for unrestricted daily access.</p>
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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 bring their meals from home and the service proposes to provide a fruit snack daily and a selection of dried foods will be available to supplement food brought from home. A refrigerator was available for the storage of perishable food items supplied by parents / guardians of pre-school children. Children can bring their own drinks to pre-school and a supply of drinking water will also be available to the children at all times. The service had developed a healthy eating policy to be communicated to parents/guardians which contained guidance on the provision of healthy food for children attending the pre-school. The policy promoted the selection of healthy food choices and listed items that were actively discouraged.

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### 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:

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.

- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school room was identified by illuminated emergency exit signage. All designated emergency exits were observed to be clear and unobstructed.
- The main entrance doors within the room were secured preventing unauthorised access or the unsupervised exiting of a preschool child.
- Glass panelled doors provide staff with good visibility of those approaching the service and it was proposed that all access doors and gates will be controlled by staff to facilitate the entry and exit of pre-school children and any authorised visitors to the service.
- Internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas and door keys were readily available to staff.
- All blind cords were observed to be secured. Windows were fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- All toys and play resources available on the day of inspection were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the service.
- Electrical sockets, flexes and equipment were in noted to be in good repair with no obvious signs of damage or disrepair evident.
- Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area which will be inaccessible to children.
- The service is located in a quiet rural location on a designated site within the wider grounds of a primary school. The boundary of the pre-school service's designated outdoor play area was fully enclosed. Its perimeter was bounded

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	<p>by a combination of concrete block walls and sections enclosed by wooden fencing which incorporated gates with closing mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service’s pre-school room and sanitary accommodation to facilitate handwashing.</li> <li>• Fire drill records which included provision for reflective observations were available to record monthly fire drills practised within the pre-school service to ensure the safe evacuation of pre-school children in the event of an emergency on the premises.</li> </ul>
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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:

- (1) The person in charge confirmed that staff members who would be working with children attending the service on a daily basis had completed training in first aid for children (FAR) the previous day.
- (2) (a) (b) There was no first aid box available on the premises on the day of inspection however the service submitted photographic evidence following the inspection to demonstrate that an adequately stocked first aid box was available in the service.

### 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:

The requirements of this regulation were met.

- (1)(a) There was a provision in place to record monthly fire drills in the service.

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	<p>(b) There was documentation detailing the number and type of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system in the building. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in September 2022 and the smoke alarms tested in April 2023.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the notice board.</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.

Documentary evidence was submitted in the form of a cover note demonstrating that adequate insurance had been obtained covering part time day-care for a maximum of 22 children at any one time, expiring on 27 March 2024.

### 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) The requirement has been met. On visual assessment, the pre-school room and wider premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure. The premises was well maintained and in a good state of repair with no visible defects apparent. Toilets, wash-hand basins and drainage systems all appear to be functioning correctly on the day of the inspection.
- (b) Arrangements were in place during the operation of the pre-school so as to limit the risk of children exiting unsupervised and ensure staff were aware of visitors seeking access to the setting. The pre-school’s designated outdoor play area is set back from the public road and is enclosed by walls, fencing and securable gates. A dedicated secure main entrance leading into the preschool room is to remain secure when children are present to enable staff to safely control access via this route.

- (c) Ample natural light was supplied through large windows and glass panelled doors in the pre-school room. Additional artificial lighting consisted of ceiling-mounted fluorescent lighting units with diffusers, all in good working order. Windows were fitted with blinds which allowed natural light levels in some areas of the pre-school room to be modified if required. Emergency lighting had also been installed in the premises. The room was heated through oil fired central heating. Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the heating system had been serviced in May 2023. When measured by the inspector, the air temperature in the preschool room and sanitary accommodation was within the required range of 18°C to 22°C. Natural purge ventilation was supplied via openable windows/doors in the pre-school room and sanitary accommodation and there was no evidence of condensation or mould growth noted during the inspection.
- (d) The premises, its play equipment and materials were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Documented cleaning procedures and schedules had been developed and cleaning record checklists were on display within the premises and measures were in place within the service to monitor rodent activity by way of a pest control risk assessment carried out weekly outlining preventative measures and actions to be taken in the event of pests being detected.
- (e) There is sufficient sanitary accommodation available for the numbers of adults and children proposed for the service. A children’s toilet block comprising of two toilet cubicles and two wash hand basins could be accessed directly from the children’s pre-school. A second toilet facility within the main primary school building, accessed via an interconnecting door contained one standard toilet and wash hand basin. This area also providing space for nappy changing if required.

**Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements**

**Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements**

 <p>An Ghníomhaireacht um          Leanai agus an Teaghlach          Child and Family Agency</p>	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013          Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 04          Implemented- Aug 2022          EYI-IR12.21 F06 FFP (New)</p>	<p><b>9 of 10</b></p>
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- (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 for this regulation has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space is provided in the proposed pre-school room for the work, play and movement of the children that it is planned to accommodate.</p> <p>(2) A floor area of 60.19m<sup>2</sup> was measured on the day of inspection which is sufficient to cater for the children that it is proposed will attend on a sessional and/or part time basis.</p>
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