

# Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

<b>Uimhir Aitheantais TUSLA:</b>	TU2023GY002
<b>Ainm na Seirbhíse:</b>	Naíonra An Ard Mhór
<b>Seoladh na Seirbhíse:</b>	Ard Mhór, Carna, Co.na Gaillimhe
<b>Eirchód:</b>	H91 DHW0
<b>Ainm an tSoláthraí Chláraithe:</b>	Ray Mac Pháidín
<b>Cineál na Seirbhíse</b>	Seirbhís Páirtaimseartha
<b>Dáta na Cigireachta:</b>	16 Meitheamh 2023
<b>Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:</b>	AM 5 PM 3
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Stiúrthóireacht um Dhearbhú Cáilíochta, Foirgneamh Cliniciúil & Riaracháin, Bloc A - (An Chéad Urlár- An Chonair Ghlas), Páirc Mhuirlinne, Gaillimh
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Nic Dhonnacha
<b>Title:</b>	Cigire na Luathbhlianta

## Údarás chun cigireacht a dhéanamh

Déanann Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla cigireacht ar Sheirbhísí Luathbhlianta faoi Alt 58(J) den Acht um Chúram Leanaí, 1991 (arna chur isteach le hAlt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013).

**Coinníollacha, má bhaineann le hábhar** Neamh bhainteach

## Cur síos ar an tseirbhís

Tá an tseirbhís pháirtaimseartha seo lonnaithe i seomra ranga i scoil náisiúnta an Ard Mhóir, Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe. Cuireann an naíonra Cúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige (ECCE) agus cláir chúraim sheisiúnaigh ar fáil ó 9.15 uair go 12.15 uair agus seirbhís pháirtaimseartha go dtí 14.15 uair ó Luan go hAoine. Is éard atá sa tseirbhís seomra súgartha amháin le háiseanna sláintíochta. Freastalaíonn an réamhscoil ar 21 páiste ar a mhéad ag aon am amháin. Cuirtear an tseirbhís ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge agus tá sí faoi smacht Chomhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo. Tá limistéar scíthe ciúin le tolg bog ar fáil do na páistí chun scíth a ligean nó diúltú do ghníomhaíocht má roghnaíonn sé/sí. Tá limistéir shlána súgartha lasmuigh ar thaobh agus ar chúl an áitribh, a roinntear leis na páistí atá in aois scoile. Cuireann an réamhscoil curaclam ar fáil atá bunaithe ar shúgradh paistí agus spéiseanna atá ag teacht chun cinn.

## Soláthar foirne

Tá an soláthraí cláraithe sár-uimhriúil agus ní san áitreabh ar bhonn laethúil. Tá duine ainmnithe i gceannas agus duine ainmnithe i gceannas mar ionadaí más gá. Ar lá na cigireachta bhí beirt daoine fásta ar an áitreabh. Tá triúr ball foirne san iomlán seachas an soláthraí cláraithe, atá ag obair faoi láthair san áitreabh le Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann (QQI) ag Leibhéal 5, Cúram agus Oideachas Luath-Óige ar a laghad. Tá fianaise dhoiciméadach ag an bhfoireann ar oiliúint agus oideachas leanúnach.

## Modheolaíocht

Is í Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla, rialtóir reachtúil neamhspleách ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta in Éirinn. Sainmhínítear i Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 dualgas an tsoláthraí chlárthaíte sábháilteacht agus folláine leanaí a chinntiú agus cloí leis na riachtanais seo. Tugann an tAcht seo údarás do Tusla measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh leis na rialacháin. Is é is aidhm le rialáil maidir le seirbhísí óige ná a chinntiú go seastar le cúram, sábháilteacht, agus folláine na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí seo. Pleanáiltear cigireachtaí ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta bunaithe ar na pointí seo a leanas:

- Stair chigireachta na seirbhíse
- Eolas ar bith a fhaightear maidir leis an tseirbhís
- Tá torthaí na cigireachta bunaithe ar:
  - Eolas a fhaightear trí dhoiciméid a imscrúdú
  - Breathnú díreach
  - Plé le baill foirne ábhartha

# Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Ba chigireacht fógartha é seo, agus díriodh ar rialachas, sláinte, folláine agus forbairt an linbh agus sábháilteacht. Féadfaidh cigireachtaí díriú ar réimsí eile chomh maith, de réir mar is gá.

Leagtar amach torthaí na cigireachta sa tuarascáil maidir leis an gcigireacht a eisítear mar dhréacht-tuarascáil ar dtús chuig an tseirbhís, agus bíonn deis ag an tseirbhís freagra a thabhairt ar thorthaí ar bith a luaitear inti. I gcás go sainaitnítear nach bhfuil ceanglais reachtúla á gcomhlíonadh, ní mór don soláthraí cláraithe léiriú a thabhairt ar an mbealach a réitíodh an neamhchomhlíonadh agus mar a chuirfear cosc ar an neamhchomhlíonadh amach anseo. Úsáidfean an plean um Ghníomh Ceartaitheach agus Gníomh Coisctheach (CAPA) chun bonn eolais a chur le cinntí maidir le comhlíonadh le ceanglais rialála. I gcás nach n-éiríonn leis an soláthraí cláraithe na ceanglais reachtúla a chomhlíonadh, féadfar próiseas géaraithe a thosú.

Dhírigh an chigireacht ar scrúdú a chomhlíonadh faoi rialacháin 9,11,19 (1) (a). Leagtar amach na torthaí seo laistigh de na rialacháin ábhartha laistigh den tuarascáil seo.

Forchoimeádann an Chigireacht an ceart chun eagarthóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagraí a fhaightear ar chúiseanna éagsúla lena n-áirítear soiléireacht; iomláine; agus chun próisis riaracháin agus dlíthiúla a chomhlíonadh.

Is í an Chigireacht a thiomsaíonn ábhar na tuarascála.

## Buíochas

Is mian leis an gCigire buíochas a ghabháil leis an duine i gceannas, leis an bhfoireann agus leis na leanaí a bhí i láthair ar lá na cigireachta as a gcomhoibriú ar fad.

## Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

### Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht

#### (1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe-

(a) go mbeidh sa tseirbhís duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe agus duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú a bheidh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá,

(b) go mbeidh an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe nó an duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (a) san áitreabh gach tráth le linn na tréimhse ina mbeidh an tseirbhís réamhscoile á seoladh, agus

(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe gur duine oiriúnach inniúil gach fostaí, gach oibrí nach n-íoctar agus gach conraitheoir, agus cineál na riachtanas a bhíonn ar leanaí á chur san áireamh, lena n-áirítear trí na nithe seo a leanas a dhéanamh—

(a) breithniú ar theistiméireacht ó fhostóirí an duine san am a caitheadh, más ann, agus go háirithe ar theistiméireacht ón bhfostóir is déanaí, más ann,

(b) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhoinsí iontaofa i gcás duine nach raibh aon fhostóirí air nó uirthi san am a caitheadh,

(c) breithniú ar an nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin a fuarthas ó Bhiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána de réir Acht 2012 i leith an duine, agus

d) a chinntiú, a mhéid is indéanta, go soláthróidh duine, i gcás go raibh cónaí ar an duine i stát seachas an Stát ar feadh tréimhse ab fhaide ná 6 mhí as a chéile, grinnfhiosrúchán ag póilíní ó na húdaráis phóilíneachta sa stát sin.

(4) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (2) agus faoi réir mhíreanna (5) agus (6), go sealbhaíonn gach fostaí a bhíonn ag obair go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís, mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-Óige ar Leibhéal 5 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasfaidh an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach léi sin, ar a laghad.

## Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

(1) (a)

Bhí duine ainmnithe i gceannas agus bhí duine ainmnithe ar fáil má bhí gá.

(b)

Bhí an leas-duine a bhí i gceannas ar an áitreabh nuair a tháinig an cigire luathbhlianta agus d'fhan sí ar an láthair ar feadh ré an iniúchta. Thug uainchláir foirne le fios go raibh an duine ainmnithe a bhí i gceannas nó an leas duine ar fáil, ar an áitreabh, i gcónaí nuair a bhí na leanaí réamhscoile i láthair.

(2)

Déanadh athbhreithniú ar gach comhad foirne ar lá an iniúchadh.

(a)&(b)

Bhí sé thagairt bhailíochtaithe i scríbhinn, ar chomhad don fhoireann ó iarfhóistoir nó ó fhoirse seachas an fhóistoir deireadh.

(c)

Bhí nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána ar fáil don triúr ball foirne.

(d)

Bhí grinnfhiosrúchán na bpóilíní ar fáil ar chomhad do bhall foirne amháin a bhí ina chónaí lasmuigh den dlínse, ar feadh thréimhse níos faide ná 6 mhí, agus é os cionn 18 mbliana d'aois.

(4)

Bhí Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann (QQI) ag triúr ball foirne ag Leibhéal 5 ar a laghad, i gCúram agus Oideachas. Bhí cóipeanna de cháilíochtaí leanúnacha ar chomhad don triúr ball foirne.

## Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann

### Rialachán 11 - Leibhéal Foirne

#### Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

(1)

Le linn thréimhse an iniúchta, chinntigh an duine a bhí i gceannas go raibh líon leordhóthanach foirne ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí i gconaí.

(2)

Léirigh fianaise dhoiciméadach i bhfoirm taifead tinrimh agus uainchláir foirne gur cloíodh le cóimheasa leanaí fásta.

Maidin na cigireachta, bhí 5 pháiste réamhscoile idir 3 agus 5 bliana d'aois.

Suas go dtí 14.15 uair, bhí triúr páistí réamhscoile ag freastal ar an gclár páirtaimseartha seirbhísí.

Bhí beirt bhall foirne cúram leanaí ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí.

(8)(a)

Chinntigh an soláthraí cláraithe go raibh beirt bhall foirne ar an áitreabh i gcónaí fad is a bhí an réamhscoil ag feidhmiú.

## Cuid V - Cúram Linbh i Seirbhís Réamhscoile

### Rialachán 19 - Sláinte, leas agus forbairt linbh

(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, le linn dó nó di a bheith ag soláthar seirbhís réamhscoile—

(a) go ndéanfar foghlaim, forbairt agus leas gach linbh a urasú laistigh de shaol laethúil na seirbhíse réamhscoile trí na gníomhaíochtaí cuí, an idirghníomhaíocht chuí, na hábhair chuí agus an trealamh cuí a sholáthar, ag féachaint d'aois agus do chéim forbartha an linbh, agus

### Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:

#### RIACHTANAIS BHUNÚSACHA:

- Cuireadh an polasaí bia sláintiúil chun cinn laistigh den tseirbhís.
- Shuigh na páistí le chéile agus d'ith siad a gcuid sneaiceanna agus lón a chuir a dtuismitheoirí agus caomhnóirí ar fáil doibh. Bhí an bia ag breathnú sláintiúil agus cothaitheach.
- Bhí sneaiceanna agus lón comhdhéanta de rogha ceapairí, arán donn, cáis, iógart, pasta agus píosaí torthaí le huisce le n-ól.
- Bhí uisce ar bhord deochanna do pháistí chun féinfhrestail agus rochtain a fháil ar a mbuidéil nó deochanna le linn an tseisiúin.
- Tugadh faoi deara go raibh páistí ag baint taitnimh as am sneaiceanna agus lón faoi mhaoirseacht na foirne. Tugadh neart ama do na páistí chun taitneamh a bhaint as a gcuid sneaiceanna agus lón i dtimpeallacht shuaimhneach.
- Bhí cuisneoir ainmnithe ann chun earraí bia meatacha a stóráil go sábháilte ó bhoscaí lóin do pháistí, dá n-amanna sneaiceanna agus lón. Chuir an soláthraí cláraithe in iúl don chigire córas sábháilte ina raibh gach bia agus deoch a tugadh ó theach an linbh lipéadaithe agus inaitheanta don leanbh.
- Spreagadh agus tugadh tacaíocht do leanaí chun a gcúram pearsanta féin a bhainistiú a bheadh oiriúnach dá leibhéal neamhspleáchais féin.
- Rinne an fhoireann maoirseacht ar níochán lámh na bpáistí roimh agus tar éis am sneaiceanna agus lón, tar éis leithris, tar éis dóibh a srón a shéideadh, tar éis súgradh míshlachtmhar agus ag amanna fágála agus bailithe.
- Níor chaith aon pháiste clúidín lá na cigireachta.
- Bíonn teacht ag gach páiste a fhreastalaíonn ar bhonn páirtaimseartha sa seirbhís ar leaba agus línéadach leapa ar leibhéal íseal le haghaidh soláthar codlata nó am ciúin chun scíth a ligean agus tréimhse scíthe a bheith acu.

- Bíonn neart deiseanna ag páistí bogadh thart ina dtimpeallacht, a bheith ag fiosrú na háite, agus a gcuid scileanna atá ag teacht chun cinn a fheabhsú. Bhí deis ag na páistí ar fad súgradh taobh amuigh ar lá na cigireachta.

## AG TACÚ LE CAIDRIMH

- Rinne an fhoireann idirghníomhú ó chroí leis na páistí, bhí siad ag éisteacht go cúramach lena scéalta agus lena gceisteanna, ag freagairt spéise dóibh agus ag tabhairt moladh agus spreagadh rialta i rith an lae.
- Le linn idirghníomhaíochtaí breathnaithe, léirigh an fhoireann a bhí ag obair leis na leanaí go raibh aithne mhaith acu ar na leanaí, ag aithint agus ag luacháil a spéiseanna, a riachtanais agus a spéiseanna foghlama aonair.
- Léirigh an fhoireann meas le na bpáistí atá faoina gcúram, labhair siad go deas bog/ séimh, d'usaíd siad teanga dhearfach agus theagmháil siad leis na páistí ag a leibhéal féin.
- Na téamaí atá siad ag obair ar sa seomra ranga faoi latháir ná Bóin Dé, Páistí ag súgradh cois farraige agus ar an trá.
- Bhí cumarsáid le tuismitheoirí ag am baile nó ag tús an lae ag an doras, nó trí ghlaoch gutháin nó ríomhphoist má bhíonn gá.
- Chuir comhsheasmhach an tsoláthrai foirne agus oibriú príomhchóras oibríthe deiseanna ar fáil do na leanaí caidreamh slán a chruthú agus a chothú leis an bhfoireann aosach a bhí ag tabhairt aire dóibh sa suíomh.
- Ghlac na páistí páirt i ngníomhaíochtaí éagsúla lena n-áirítear, am scéalaíochta, taos súgartha a dhéanamh, carranna agus tarracóirí a dhéanamh as nascóirí, leabhair a léamh, agus amhráin aicsin a chanadh (i.e) chuaigh 'Micilin Muc ar an aonach lá'.
- Bhí córas cuntóirí an lae/ Little Helper sa seomra súgartha a thug deis do na páistí a bheith 'ina cuntóir beag' ag tabhairt am agus deis do gach páiste an lámh in uachtar a fháil, a bheith neamhspleách, gníomhaíocht a thionscnamh agus tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh chun fadhbanna a réiteach.
- Bhí a leabhar próifíle féin ag gach páiste (M'Aistear Foghlama) le saothar ealaíne, pictiúirí, téamaí agus scéalta ar taispeáint agus nasctha a gcuid tuairimí le chéile.
- Bhí deis ag na páistí súgradh taobh amuigh, bhí siad ag rith, ag ruaigeadh, ag léimneach, ag sleamhnú ar an sleamhnán, ag caitheamh liathróidí cispheile san eangach agus ag súgradh le fonsaí hula.

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2023GY002		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra An Ard Mhór		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ard Mór, Carna, Co Galway		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 DHWO		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ray Mac Pháidin		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part-time		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/06/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM 3
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Galway.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F. Nic Dhonnacha		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		

### Authority to Inspect

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

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This part-time service is located in a classroom in Ardmore national school, Carna, Co. Galway. The preschool offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care programmes from 9.15hrs to 12.15hrs and a part-time service until 14.15 hrs Monday to Friday. The service consists of one playroom with sanitary facilities. The preschool caters for a maximum of 21 children at any one time. The service is delivered through the medium of Irish and is under the governance of Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo. There is a quiet rest area with soft couches available for the children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chooses to. There are secure outdoor play areas to the side and rear of the premises, which the service shares with the school-aged children. The preschool offers a child centred play-based curriculum based on emerging interests.

### Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not in the premises on a daily basis. There is a named person in charge and a named designated deputy. On the day of inspection there were 2 adults on the premises. There are a total of three staff excluding the registered provider, currently working in the premises with a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19 (1) (a). These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

### Acknowledgments

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,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

### Compliance Information

(1) (a)

There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b)

The deputy person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.

(2)

All staff files were reviewed on inspection.

(a)&(b)

Six written validated references, on file for the staff were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosure was available for the three staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for one staff member who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 months, while over the age of 18 years.

(4)

Three staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of on-going qualifications were on file for the three staff members.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(2)

Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 5 pre-school children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Up until 14.15hrs, there were 3 pre-school children attending the services part time programme.

There were two childcare staff working directly with the children.

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child.*

#### Compliance Information

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- The healthy eating policy was promoted within the service.
- The children sat together and ate their snacks provided by their parents / guardians. The food observed was healthy and nutritious.
- Snacks and lunch consisted of a selection of sandwiches, brown bread, cheese, yogurts, pasta and pieces of fruit with water to drink.
- There was water on a drinks table for children to self-serve and access their sip bottles / drinks throughout the session.
- Children were observed enjoying snack time under the supervision of the staff. The children were given plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried environment.
- There was a designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from children's lunch boxes, for their snack times.
- The registered provider advised the inspector of a safe system where all food and drinks brought from the child's home were labelled and identifiable to the child.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- The staff supervised children's hand washing before and after snack time, after toileting, after blowing their noses, after messy play and at drop off and collection times.
- No child wore a nappy on the day of inspection.
- All children attending on a part time basis have access to a low-level bed and bed linen for sleep provision or quiet time to relax and have a rest period.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to move about freely, exploring their environment, and improving their emerging skills. All the children had the opportunity to play outside on the day of the inspection.

### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- Staff interacted warmly with the children, listening carefully to their stories and questions, responding to them with interest and providing regular praise and encouragement throughout the day.
- During observed interactions, the staff working with the children demonstrated that they knew the children well, recognising and valuing their individual interests, needs and learning interests.
- The staff demonstrated respect and warmth towards the children in their care using soft and gentle tones, positive language and engaging with the children at their level. The theme of the week Children playing at the seaside and the beach.
- Communication with parents was at drop off and collection times, by phone call or email if necessary.
- Consistency of staff provision and the operation of a key worker system provided opportunities for the children to form and sustain secure relationships with the adult staff who were caring for them in the setting.
- The children engaged in a variety of activities including, story time, making play dough, making cars and tractors from connectors, reading books, and singing action songs (i.e) chuaigh ‘Micilin Muc ar an aonach lá’.
- There were cuntóiri an lae/ Little Helper system in the playroom providing the children with the opportunity to be ‘little helper’s giving each child designated time and opportunity to take the lead, be independent, initiate an activity and be supported to solve problems.
- Each child had their own profile book (My learning journal) with artwork, pictures, themes and stories displayed and linked with observations.
- The children had the opportunity to play outside, they engaged in running, chasing, jumping, sliding on the slide, throwing basket balls in the net, and playing with hula hoops.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The layout of the playroom allowed the staff to supervise the children as they moved into the different interest areas.
- Children have plenty of free space to move around and select which activities they chose to engage with both in the playroom and outdoor environment.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible by the preschool children.
- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate and offered children manipulative activities designed to encourage hand eye co-ordination, develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

- Appropriate child sized tables and chairs were provided in the playroom and the children had the option of both tabletop activities and floor play.
- The playroom was clear of clutter, bright and spacious. All areas were accessible and suitably resourced with ample supplies of supporting materials and equipment including, a home corner / an Cuine baile, nature table / bord dúlra (with shells, pebbles, crabs, turf,), dolls, babies, cots, and prams, a construction area, jigsaws and a puzzle area, arts and craft area, a rest and a reading and dress up area.
- Visual aids were displayed at low levels for the children to see, including 'An Chuach', family photos, and nursery rhymes.
- Items in the outdoor area included a slide, basketball ring, balls, hula hoops and jumping disks.
- The area was secured with fencing, boundary walls and gates. The outdoor play area surface was covered with tarmac. There was an area with hopscotch, snakes and ladders and jumping games embedded in the tarmac.
- Rest / quiet areas were provided in the playroom in the form of child size couches, and matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. The children attending the part time service had the use of stackable beds / matting for sleep provision.