

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2023KY004

Name of Service Tigh na Leanaí

Address of Service: Ionad Caitlin Naofa, Ventry, Tralee, Co Kerry V92 H4CA

Email Address: Tighnaleanai2023@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Vanessa Duffy

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

Proposed change:	Change service type from a childminding to a full day care service; to include a change of address, an increase of number of children and an increase in staff numbers.
Proposed Number of Children:	26
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	All changes to be approved
Registered change:	Change in service address from Ballytrasna, Ventry, Tralee, Co. Kerry, V92 E034 to Ionad Caitlin Naofa, Ventry, Tralee, Co Kerry V92 H4CA Change in Service Type from Childminding to Full Day Care Change in number of children from 5 to 26 Change in staff from 1 to 4

Date of Inspection:	1	9	0	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: Margaret Carney

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Child & Family Agency, Social Work Dept,
Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen P81 PD78

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 26 Children
Date of Registration	29 th February 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	<p>The registered provider is proposing to operate an early years care and education on a full day care basis for children aged from 0 – 6 years.</p> <p>Times of operation requested are – 08:00am to 18:00pm Monday to Fridays.</p> <p>The service will be implementing a curriculum through the medium of Gaelige.</p>
Premises	<p>The registered provider is proposing to operate from a modern, single storey community building which is situated in the centre of the coastal village of Ventry in west Kerry. Historically it was purpose built to accommodate a full day care service. The premises will be shared with the existing local Naíonra.</p> <p>The service will provide a large playroom, a designated sleep room, staff office/storage area, kitchenette and toilet and nappy changing facilities.</p> <p>The children will have direct access to secured outdoor playgrounds.</p> <p>There is sufficient off-street parking around the building to ensure the safe arrival and departure of the children with their families.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider is the person in charge and will work directly with the children. An additional 3 adults will be employed.</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 who facilitated the inspection process.</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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The proposed registered provider will be managing the service and working directly with the children. In addition, a childcare professional has been designated to deputise as required. Review of personal files indicated that each adult had the required vetting documentation in place.

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)

The registered provider will be the person in charge and working directly with the children. In conversation with the registered provider, it was stated that the importance of adhering to the correct adult child ratios were understood.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

- Tigh na Leanai provided a large playroom which was furnished in a considered manner; there was enough low tables and chairs for the children to enjoy fine motor skill tabletop activities and eat their meals.
- The room was laid out in a thematic way to invite rich valuable play, incite curiosity and encourage socialisation. There was a home corner furnished with a wide range of utensils to encourage pretend play.
- There were cars and trucks to invite interactive floor play.
- A farm table was generously supplied with items to replicate farm life.
- A sand table encouraged sensory play, utensils were freely available for digging pouring and spilling.
- There were small and large construction items.
- Easels, arts and crafts were available for the children to master creative topics.
- There were many open display units storing additional items such as books and tabletop activities.

(b)

- The service provided a cosy rest area which was furnished with child sized armchairs, rugs and soft furnishings for the children’s comfort and relaxation.
- A separate sleep room was adjoined to the playroom. It had a large viewing panel in place so that staff members could monitor sleeping children.
- The room was furnished with a standard cot which had a well fitted wipeable mattress and well fitted sheet. The cot was clean and in good condition and situated away from climbing hazards such as window ledges and blinds.
- There were 3 stackable beds which had been laid out in readiness for use with individual linen and blankets.

(2)(b)

- The children had direct access to 2 secured outdoor play areas that were equipped with age-appropriate gross motor skill equipment and resources for example, there was a low slide, tunnels for hide and seek games and ride on toys.

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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:

- Tigh na Leanai had a healthy eating policy which stated that the parents and guardians provided their children with all their food and drink items.
- The registered provider reported that meals would be offered in a timely manner, with breakfast on arrival if the children required it. Two mid-morning snacks were timetabled with the hot meal being served about 14:00pm. An additional healthy snack would be offered mid-afternoon.
- The registered provider stipulated that additional healthy snacks would be stored in the kitchenette in case of children forgetting lunches or requesting more food when hungry.
- A newly purchased fridge/freezer and a larder fridge were on the premise for the storage of the children’s lunches.
- A water station had been set up so that the children could help themselves to drinks.
- The service had low tables and 2 highchairs for the children to sit in a sociable position with their friends and enjoy their meals.
- There was a generous supply of child sized cutlery and plastic plates and beakers for the children’s use.

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:

General Safety:

- Entrances to Tigh na Leanai were suitably secured to prevent the children leaving unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The outdoor play areas were secured, fenced and gated with high bolts.
- The glazed doors had visibility strips applied to prevent the children from crashing into the glass.
- The windows in the service were furnished in flowery designed blinds which were in a good state of repair with cords suitably fastened.
- The kitchenette was not accessible to the children so they could not access any hazardous materials such as sharp knives or cleaning products.
- Highchairs were fitted were clean and in good condition and fitted with the correct safety harnesses.
- Each open display unit was suitably anchored to the walls to prevent the furniture from falling on the children.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no visible flexes or electric cabling observed. • Pathways around the premises were well maintained and free from trip hazards. • The outdoor play area was laid to lawn with a hard surface which was free from trip hazards. • Resources, toys and play materials were examined and found to be in good working order, free from pinch or crush points or jagged edges. <p>Infection control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children had access to a sufficient number of toilets and wash hand basins which clean and in a good state of repair. • There were step ups and toilet seats available for the children’s comfort and safety. • Individual labelled boxes were arranged for the storage of dummies/comforters. • A non-contact nappy bin was situated by the nappy changing unit. • Protective gloves and single use aprons were available for adult use and stored out of reach of the children. • Tissues and wipes were readily available for cleaning of noses, hands and faces. • Non-contact pedal bins were in use in the service.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider had completed first aid responder training (FAR) with an expiry date of February 2024. It was evidenced by email that a date had been booked to renew this training course for the 02 March 2024.</p> <p>(2)(a) & (b) A first aid box was stored in a high shelf in the playroom, which was out of reach of the children but accessible to the staff members. It was suitably stocked with supplies that were in date. There were no medications stored in the first aid box.</p>
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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 firefighting 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 requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider displayed a blank template in the playroom in readiness for the recording of each monthly fire drill carried out. The template detailed the number of children and staff present and the length of time the drill took to complete.

(1)(b)

A record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service were recorded were maintained. The most recent fire service had taken place on the 23 August 2023. The smoke alarms were tested in February 2024.

(4)

An evacuation plan was displayed in both the sleep room and the playroom to assist staff to evacuate the building in the event of a fire.
The fire assembly point was clearly displayed in the outdoor area.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The registered provider made available a full-time daycare quotation from an insurance company stating that up to 26 children are adequately insured to attend the service. The expiry date was 24 March 2024.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(a)

The proposed service was located within a community building which consisted of a single storey, modern, brightly painted and well-maintained premises. It was found to be visually of sound and stable structure. The interior floors were in a good state of repair with no evidence of dampness or mould. Ceilings were intact, clean with no evidence of cracks or disrepair.

Windows were found to be weathertight.

The septic tank was situated to the rear of the grounds and not accessible to the children.

(b)

The entrances to the building had secured buzzer systems in place to ensure that unauthorised access restricted and the children could not leave the building unsupervised and gain access to the main road in the village.

(c)

The playroom had 5 large windows that were positioned out of reach of the children, they provided natural light with a small openable awning window to provide fresh air and ventilation. In addition, there were 9 dome shaped flush ceiling lights that were in working order and provided ambient light. There were 2 wall lights also. In the sleep room there was a large window for natural light and similar flush ceiling lights that were operated on a dimmer switch.

The toilet and nappy changing facility had mechanical ventilation which was tested and found to be in good working order.

The service provided Flo gas central heating. The ambient room temperatures of the playroom registered at 18.1 degrees Celsius. The sleep room air temperature registered at 16.2 degrees Celsius. The registered provider had installed a wall mounted thermometer in the sleep room in readiness for recording regular sleep room temperatures.

Radiator covers had been installed to ensure the children's safety.

(d)

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The service was visually clean and in a good state of repair. Cleaning schedules had been displayed in readiness for completion when the service was to commence. Appropriate cleaning products were available for correct cleaning of play equipment and furniture; the products were stored in high wall mounted wall cupboards, out of reach of the children.

(e)

The children had access to 2 separate toilets and 2 wash hand basins. The bathroom ware was clean and in a good state of repair. Liquid soap was available for hand washing purposes and there were 2 wall mounted hot air dryers for hand drying. There was an additional sink unit positioned in the lobby of the toilet accommodation for additional hand washing and for cleaning up after messy play or arts and crafts.

There was a mobile nappy changing unit with a well fitted nappy changing mat which was clean and in a good state or repair.

The thermostatically controlled hot water was tested and registered at 40.1 degrees Celsius which was within the recommended range.

The registered provider stated that each wash hand basin had been fitted with a thermostat to safeguard the correct water temperatures.

Adults working in the service had use of a designated adult toilet which was situated in the main building.

The building was connected to a public water supply.

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.

Requirement met:

The Requirement has been met.

The floor space measured 61.71 square metres which provided sufficient clear floor space for the following number of children, depending on their age, to attend, as described below -

Children attending aged 0-1 year on a full day care basis	Children aged 1-2 years attending on a full day care basis	Children aged 2-3 years attending on a full day care basis	Children aged 3-6 years attending on a full day care basis
Up to 18 children permitted	Up to 21 children permitted	Up to 26 children permitted	Up to 27 children permitted