

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023MH003		
Name of Service:	Naíonra Bhaile Ghíb CNNG		
Address of Service:	Halla Pobail Baile Ghíb, Gibbstown Cross, An Uaimh, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	C15 VK49		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ray Mac Pháidín		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	12/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham		
Title:	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).			
Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable.		

Description of service

The service is based in the clubhouse of the GAA grounds in Bhaile Ghib. The service is operating from a room in the club house and entering the building is through the main entrance door to the front of the building. The service proposes to accommodate 11 preschool children for a sessional service from 8.50am to 11.50am each day. There is one care room with sanitary accommodation just off the room in the hallway which consists of two toilets and one wash hand basin. A staff toilet is available within the building.

Staffing

There are two staff employed in the service.

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived.
- (2) The two staff files were reviewed
- (a) (b) Four validated written references were available.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 2 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years
- (d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 and level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3) The adult/child ratio was correct; two adults cared for 6 children attending a sessional service (aged between 2 years 11 months to 4 years).

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, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development.

Conversations and interactions between children and staff were observed during snack time. The children were encouraged to be independent, and their choices were supported. Staff were observed to offer support and praise to each child for their involvement in activities. The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. The staff were familiar with each child and their personality. Staff members were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. Good teamwork between the staff members was observed during the inspection. The pre-school room was laid out with areas of interest that incorporated real life play items and materials to stimulate each area of the child's development. Low level tables, chairs and low-level shelving with equipment were available to all children. Play equipment and materials were accessible to children and individual preferences were accommodated as to what and how long children wish to engage with specific chosen activities. A range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, creative and enriching experiences were available for all children. Materials included paint, play dough, dolls, dolls houses, buggies, puzzles, skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws and shape sorters. Children's artwork was noted and paper, crayons, paint and a variety of open-ended art materials were in plentiful supply. On the day of inspection children were observed enjoying celebrating one of the children's birthdays with birthday cake, songs and acknowledgement of their special day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The premise was found to be clean, bright, and well maintained.

- The playroom was furnished with an adequate number of tables and child sized chairs, and fixed open shelving displaying the wide range of play materials and equipment in an accessible way to the children.
- The spacious playroom afforded children the ability to move freely, as they participated in various activities.
- The room was laid out in a thematic style to encourage and entice the children’s interest to play, socialise and explore.
- The layout of the room promoted the independent access to all the materials to foster children’s autonomy and freedom of choice.
- There were multiple tabletop activities to encourage fine motor skill play such as peg boards, threading and small construction items. There was an imaginative/pretend play area which was furnished with a kitchen, associated utensils, dolls, buggies.
- Wall displays included the children’s art works, pictures of the children and their families on the family wall.

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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

The entrance to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean with cleaning schedules available. Children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet. A fridge was available for the storage of perishable goods in the preschool room.

Administration of Medication:

Administration of medication documentation was available in the service if required. Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature and was stored safely in the service.

Fire Safety:

Emergency exits were unobstructed throughout the service. A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child was recorded on a daily basis.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) Two staff members were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a) A first aid box was available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the pre-school room.

(b) A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 11 June 2025, prior to closure for the summer months.
- (b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment in the premises was serviced September 2025. The smoke alarms in the premises were serviced on the 31st January 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid insurance certificate for 22 preschool children with an expiry date of 27th November 2025.