

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024DS003
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Matters
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada, Griffeen Road, Lucan, Co Dublin
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Email Address:	info@montessorimatters.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Sharon Smyth
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Sessional
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Proposed Number of Children:	22
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sessional service for 22 children from 9.00am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year for children aged 2 – 6 years.
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Registered service:	Registered sessional 22 children.
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Date of Inspection:	1	5	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	Fiona Carty
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service 22 children.
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Date of Registration:	07 th August 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	Naíonra Matters is a proposed sessional preschool service providing early childhood education through the Irish language for children aged 2 – 6 years from 9.00am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.
Premises	The premises comprise of a single classroom within Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada. There is access to sanitary accommodation inside of the care room. An outdoor play area is located to the side of the premises. There are gates to the front of the school building and a locked door providing security and preventing children exiting or unauthorised people entering the premises.
Staffing	The service will be staffed by 5 adults who will work on a part time basis. Certification was provided to confirm that adults had childcare qualifications at minimum level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications proposed to work in the service.
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 four 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 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.</p>
Acknowledgement	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

(1)(a)

The requirement has been met. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and an additional adult will be able 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

(1)

An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of 22 pre-school children in the care room in the age range 2 years to 6 years between the hours of 9.00am and 12.30pm with 5 adults present at all times.

(8)

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable

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.
- (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 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
 - (b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph (4), the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The care room in use in the service was equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area and a book corner. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the care room for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities. A wide variety of materials were available including materials from the Montessori method of education, puzzles, art activities, small world play and construction.

(b) The care room had a rest area available which consisted of a soft sofa and mat.

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	<p>(3) An outdoor play area to the side of the building which was secured with a gate was available for the children. The gate at the entrance of the outdoor play area provided security against unauthorised access or egress. The main play area had a grassed surface and a number of wooden toys including flower planters, a climbing frame, mud kitchen and bench. The service also had access to a large fenced school yard.</p> <p>(3)(b) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable</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:

The service proposes that the children will bring in their own food and snacks to the service. All perishable food will be stored in a refrigerator below 5° Celsius. Drinking water will be available to the children.

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 requirement has been met.

There was direct access from a door from the outside of the premises. There was a small hallway which accessed the door to the care room which had a lock inside. It was advised that children will be accepted into the service directly from the entrance door to the building which must be opened from inside the building. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from this door after sessional hours by parents/guardians. Staff will be present at drop off and collection times at the entrance to 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There was certification available for 1 of the adults who will work in the pre-school service which had recently expired. Confirmation of attendance on a FAR course prior to the service opening was provided for 1 staff member.

(2)(a) A suitable equipped first aid box was located on high level open shelving in the care 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.

(1)

(a) A recording system was available to ensure that a record could be maintained of monthly fire drills as conducted.

(b) A recording system was available which confirmed the 2 fire extinguishers located in the care room were serviced in May 2024. The smoke alarms were last serviced for the entire school building on the 4th June 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was provided for the pre-school service.

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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.

Adequate insurance cover is in place. The certificate specifies that the service has cover for a maximum of 22 pre-school children in the age range 2 years to 6 years from 26/08/2024 To 27/03/2025.

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 service is located in an existing primary school building and the interior walls, floors and ceilings of the rooms in use by the service and appeared in a good state of repair and maintenance. The registered provider stated that the building was of sound and stable structure. Windows in all rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height.

(b) The exit from the hallway leading from the playroom to outside was secured and opened only from the inside. The playroom was located at ground floor level and was provided with storage cupboards at a high level to facilitate storage of play and work equipment not in constant or everyday use.

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(c) Openable windows were provided in the care room for both natural ventilation and natural day light. The fluorescent light fittings in rooms were covered with shatterproof diffusers. The radiators for the playrooms were thermostatically controlled and were safely secured to the walls.

(d) The heavy-duty vinyl floor covering, painted walls and ceiling tiles were clean and well maintained on the day of inspection. Cleaning equipment and chemicals were located in a cupboard inaccessible to the children.

(e) Two toilets and two wash hand basin was located inside the playroom. The water supply to both wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled and both soap dispensers, disposable paper towels and a hand dryer were provided in both sanitary accommodation. Mechanical ventilation in the form of ceiling vents were in use in all toilets.

Additional toilet facilities close to the playroom provided sanitary accommodation for the proposed adults working in the service.

The service is connected to both the public drainage and 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.*
- (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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the 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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) An area of 70.12sqm was available in the play room for a maximum of 22 pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional basis.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The area of the play room met the requirement for clear floor space for a maximum of 22 pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional basis in a single play room.

(4)(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.