

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DS003
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Matters
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Address of Service:	Gael Scoil Eiscir Riada, Griffeen Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 YX77
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sharon Symth
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	12/12/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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
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Description of service

Naíonra Matters is a privately owned childcare service operating from one care room within Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada in Lucan, Co Dublin. The service provides sessional education and care through the Irish language to children from 2 - 6 years of age. The service operates from 9.00am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There are five staff employed to work with the children and on the day of inspection the area manager was also present to facilitate the inspection.

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 and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing levels

Regulation 19.- Health, welfare and development of the child

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

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

The inspection focussed on the recruitment records of all staff members.

(2)

(a)(b)

Eleven references from past employers and one reference from a reputable source were available and validated in respect of six employees.

(c) Garda vetting was available in respect of six employees.

(d) International police vetting was available for one employee who had lived outside of the State for a period longer than 6 months.

(3)

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to all staff being employed in the service.

(4) The employees working directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children throughout the inspection.

(3)

The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained at all times. There were five staff working directly with 19 children on the day of inspection.

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

Drinking water was always available to the children, in the care room rooms. Parents provided the snack for the children and this included fruit, crackers, yoghurt and sandwiches. Staff were observed to sit with the children during snack time, engaging in conversation and assisting younger children when required.

Children were encouraged to look after themselves according to their age and stages of development. Staff supported children to develop independence with opening snack items, using the toilet, washing their hands and taking care of their belongings.

Children's rest areas were available in the care room, there was soft matting and sofas and cushions available. The children were able to move freely around the care room and engage in different types of activities of their choosing. On the day of inspection children were observed preparing for a Christmas concert singing songs in the Irish language. Staff spoke to children in both English and Irish encouraging the development of both languages. Adults were observed to be kind and warm to the children and minor disagreements between children were managed promptly by distraction and positive behaviour methods.

The adults demonstrated positive regard for the children by using gentle tones when communicating and showing a keen interest in them engaging in conversation during snack time creating a sociable atmosphere.

The adults supported children during group and individual play activities. Staff communicated with parents at drop off and collection times.

There was one large care room available to the children. The care room was a supportive learning environment for the children. The care room was bright and spacious and laid out with identifiable interest areas including a home corner, construction materials, art areas a quiet corner incorporating a book area, low level shelving containing activities from the Montessori method of education.

Children's artwork and large educational posters are displayed on the wall. All the play resources were visible and accessible to the children at their height.

A range of play materials were provided to promote all key areas of the children's learning and development.

Toys were clean, in good repair and included a range of materials including wood, paints, and moulded plastics.

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There was an enclosed outdoor area available to the children. A barked surface with water play, large construction blocks, sand play, a slide and large planters were available. All children accessed the outdoor area on the day of the inspection and were all dressed appropriately to the weather.