

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2025TY001							
Name of Service:	Naíonra Bóin Dé							
Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, E45 AK02							
Email Address:	ladybirdsplayschool@gmail.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Stephanie Kennedy							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed service type:	Sessional							
Proposed Number of Children:	22							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection	Proposed sessional service for up to 22 children aged between 2 and 6 years old to operate 9am – 12pm, Monday – Friday for 38 weeks per year.							
Registered service:								
Date of Inspection:	2	6	0	8	2	0	2	5
Inspection Undertaken by:	L McGeeney							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary E45A099							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children.
Date of Registration:	02 nd September 2025

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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>This proposed service will provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old on a sessional basis for 38 weeks of the year, in line with the school year from late August to June. The service will operate Monday – Friday, 9am – 12pm with places funded under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children. A registered school age care service is also provided.</p> <p>The proposed service will be a Naíonra, delivering a pre-school programme through the medium of Gaeilge.</p> <p>This service will be one of the pre-school services operated by the registered provider under the name ‘Ladybirds’ in Nenagh and Newtown including Ladybirds Preschool and Childcare Centre, Carrig Rua and Ladybirds Preschool, Newtown.</p>
Premises	<p>The proposed service will be operated from a detached, single storey building on the grounds of the Gaelscoil in the town of Nenagh in North Tipperary. The building consists of a kitchen, sanitary accommodation areas, three classrooms and a large hall. The service will use the hall, kitchen and sanitary accommodation areas. This space will be used for the pre-school service in the morning and by the school age care service in the afternoon. The classrooms will continue to be used by the school for resource teaching.</p> <p>There is an enclosed outdoor play area at the back and side of the building for exclusive use by children attending the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider will not work in the service on a daily basis but will be available to call on when required. The service manager will be the person in charge on a daily basis. It is proposed that there will be one or two staff employed, in addition to the manager, all of whom will work directly with the children.</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</p>

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	<p>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	<p>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.</p>

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) This requirement has been met.

The service manager will be the designated person in charge and there is a named person who can deputise when required.

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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)-
(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,

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) It is proposed that there will be at least 2 staff working directly with up to 22 children aged between 2 and 6 years old in the mornings.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) The room was spacious and comfortable and laid out in a variety of interest areas. The room layout facilitated the free movement of children within the space and interest areas. The large door in the end wall of the hall opened directly into the outdoor play area which facilitated easy access to daily play in the outdoors.
- (b) The children will attend for a maximum of three hours per day and as all children will be aged over 2 years 8 months old, sleep facilities are not required. A cosy reading and relaxation area was available beside the book shelves furnished with padded floor mats, bean bags and vinyl covered cushions. A second rest, relaxation

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and sensory area was furnished with padded floor mats, a blackout tent and textured tiles.

(2)(a) The children will have access to an enclosed outdoor play area at the back and side of the premises. This space has grass and concrete surfaces and was equipped with play houses, balance bikes, sand tables and bench seats. This area was separated from the rest of the school grounds by fencing, gates and barriers. The children will also have access to the wider school grounds at times during the year, such as to access the walking/running track.

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:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the children will bring a packed lunch each day, in line with the healthy eating policy of the service.

A fridge was available in the kitchen for the storage of perishable foods.

Drinking water, from the mains supply of the town, was available from the tap in the kitchen.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

General safety

There were two entrances into the building: the general entrance, which will be used by the school children accessing the resource rooms and the double doors directly into the room used by the service. All external doors were fire exit doors, operated by push bar and door release button. The children attending the service will enter the site through a gate near the building and enter the service through the double doors. The site will be secured each day when all children have arrived. There was a bell on the gate used by the service for parents to alert staff when they have arrived to collect their children.

The outdoor play area could be secured against access to the rest of the grounds when in use by the pre-school children by the use of gates and movable barriers.

The utility shed in the outdoor area was locked.

Infection control

The sanitary accommodation areas were equipped with paper towels in wall mounted dispensers, thermostatically controlled hot and cold water delivered via a mixer tap and liquid soap for hand washing.

The service had policies on the prevention and control of infection and hand washing.

Fire safety

Fire exit doors were kept clear of obstruction.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) It is proposed that there will be at least one member of staff with current first aid responder (FAR) training present in the service while it is in operation.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid bag hanging beside the general entrance door of the building and a first aid box in the storage room of the service. In addition, there was a 'self-help' trolley inside the door of the service with a selection of first aid items such as wound dressings and a forehead scan thermometer.
- (b) The first aid bag, box and supplies were available to the children attending the service when required.

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:

This requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) There was a fire drill record sheet available on a notice board in the service for recording the fire drills that took place.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. Smoke alarms and firefighting equipment were serviced on an annual basis.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed on the wall of the service, beside the door.

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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.

The service held current insurance for a sessional and afterschool service valid until 27 March 2026.

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 premises was built c. 2004 and was of concrete block and plaster construction.

(b) The premises appeared to be safe and secure. There were concrete footpaths around the building with one or two steps outside each of the external doors that had a short rise and deep tread for safety.

Radiators in the main room of the service were mounted high on the walls, out of reach of the children.

(c) The service was lit naturally through windows in the walls and roof, supplemented by electric lighting when required. The service was ventilated through openable doors and windows. The premises was heated by two systems: an oil-fired central heating system was used to heat water and radiators in the sanitary accommodation areas and classrooms. The large room used by the service was heated by electric wall mounted 'air curtains'.

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(d) The premises was clean and appeared well maintained. Most of the furniture, toys and equipment for the service were recently purchased and had not yet been used. There was a cleaning schedule for the service. Staff working in the service were responsible for cleaning the areas of the building used by the service including the sanitary accommodation areas, kitchen and hall as well as the furniture and toys in the service.

(e) There were two separate sanitary accommodation areas located off the corridor outside the room that will be used by the service. Each area was equipped with a toilet and wash hand basin. One of the areas was wheelchair accessible and had room for a nappy changing unit to be installed if children who attend the service are not yet toilet trained. Separate staff sanitary accommodation was available in the main school building. There was sufficient sanitary accommodation for the proposed 22 children and 2-3 staff.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The room proposed to be used for the service measured 85m². There was adequate clear floor space for the proposed number of children to play, work and move in the spacious room.

(3) The service proposes to provide a morning session for up to 22 children which would require a total of 40m² of clear floor space.