

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS075
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Name of Service:	K&L Naíonra & Afterschool Club Ltd
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Address of Service:	Lucan Sports Community Centre, Griffeen Valley Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78H9V9
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Name of Registered Provider:	Catherine Neil, Lorraine Nolan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill, June Anne McKimm
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

K&L Naíonra and Afterschool Club is privately operated and registered to provide sessional care and education to early years children aged from two to six years. The service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) from 09:00 to 12:00 Monday to Friday. The service operates daily and remains open until 12.30pm. A school age service is also provided in a separate premises.

The early years service is located at ground level within Lucan sports Community Centre and shares the grounds with Lucan leisure centre. Care of the children is facilitated across two care rooms seomra Réalt and seomra Ghrian. An outdoor area is available on the premises and the service have access to the indoor sports hall.

Staffing

In total six adults are employed in the service including relief staff. On the day of inspection, the service was staffed by three adults including two registered providers. Additionally, a transition year student was present on placement.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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however, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 19(1)(a) 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, 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,*

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(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

(1)

(a) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.

(b) The person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.

(2) The inspection focused on a review of files for new staff employed since the last inspection dated the 01 February 2023. In total 3 new staff members were employed. Their files along with Garda vetting disclosures for all staff employed in the service and for a student who was present were reviewed as detailed below.

(a), (b) Two written validated references had been appropriately considered for two staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 6 staff members and one student. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as the three staff members employed had not lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing three staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a), (b) There was no evidence to demonstrate that two references available for one staff member had been verified by the registered providers.

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(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) as detailed above had not been carried out prior to a staff member being appointed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a), (b) The references have now been verified and filed appropriately.

(3) Monthly checks will be carried out on staff file.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of verified references.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 attending the service during the inspection.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 27 pre-school children attending the service on the morning of inspection being supervised by 3 adults during the inspection.

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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 (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed, as evidenced by the following:

The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. They engaged children in conversations about home life, their interests and activities within the room supporting the development of relationships and a sense of belonging. Snack time was observed to be a sociable and pleasant event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children. The children in Seomra Ghrian were observed having snack at 11.00am where the staff member sat with the children chatting and extending the children's learning.

Children's artwork, photographs, birthday charts and family walls were displayed throughout the two care rooms, supporting the children's sense of identity and links between home and the service.

In Seomra Réalt children were observed to move freely around the care room which was laid out in thematic areas selecting materials of their own interest to play with. Children used the tables and play areas for example the kitchen and construction areas as play spaces throughout the morning.

On the day of inspection all children engaged in physical activity in the indoor sports hall. Staff members were observed to play games with the children and set up different activities allowing children choice. Some children for example were observed playing with hoola hoops.

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Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

1. In Seomra Ghrian the areas within the care room were not clearly defined. A large amount of equipment was present in the room, which contributed to the environment appearing cluttered. There were numerous toys and play items stored on top of units, including castles and houses, as a result, children did not have the opportunity to independently access these areas thereby limiting the play space available.

2. The designated cosy area in Seomra Ghrian was not accessible to children as the seating space was covered by a large soft toy and two bean bags. This prevented children from using the area for rest, quiet play, or relaxation. The inspector observed that children did not enter or play in this area.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The room has been cleared and rearranged with more space.
2. The room has been cleared and rearranged. Rest area is now accessible. Monthly checks will be carried out.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff members, and inspection of the premises that the following steps were taken to safeguard children attending.

General Safety:

- The entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- There were guard rails inside the window frames to ensure children's safety.
- Grapes in children's lunch boxes were observed to be cut into appropriate bite sized pieces.

Infection Control:

- Windows were open in the care room to allow fresh circulation of air.
- Pedal operated bins were available for disposal of waste items.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection all fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped support the safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.
- Attendance records were accurately maintained on the day of inspection. This supports safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. In Seomra Réalt seventeen children were present and only one child was observed to wash their hands prior to eating snack. This practice increases the risk of cross contamination and was not in line with the service's infection control policy.
2. Paper towels were not available to children in one of the sanitary areas to facilitate good hand hygiene posing a potential infection control risk.
3. A toilet training seat was on the floor of the toilet area posing a risk of cross contamination and poor hygiene practice.

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4. Children's lunch boxes were not stored in a refrigerator as required on the day of inspection. This increases the risk of causing illness to young children.
5. The laminate covering on a table in Seomra Ghrian was cracked exposing the chip board underneath. This rendered cleaning ineffective.
6. The covering on the sofa in Seomra Réalt was ripped with foam exposed which does not allowed for adequate cleaning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Seomra Réalt are following the daily plan for hand hygiene that has been set out, making sure to not skip any steps.
 2. Paper towels are now available in the bathroom.
 3. The pink toilet seat has been discarded.
 4. Lunch boxes are taken out of the school bags from the moment the children arrive and placed in the fridge.
 5. The table has now been covered.
 6. The couch has now been covered.
- Weekly and monthly checks will be carried out by staff on rotation.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered providers has addressed the non-compliant findings. Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) A person trained in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)

(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely in an easily accessible position in seomra Réalt. The first aid box was observed to be easily available to the staff caring for the children attending the 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) The monthly record of fire drills was available. The last fire drill was completed on 14 January 2026.

(b) The number type and maintenance record for fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. The fire fighting equipment and the smoke alarms were serviced on 1 September 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.