

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH067							
Name of Service:	Naiscoil Lorcan							
Address of Service:	Omeath Dundalk Co. Louth.							
Email Address:	donnamcg25@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Donna Mc Guinness							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	1	8	0	5	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		20					
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child Wellbeing Centre Castleblayney Co. Monaghan							
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	M.Flood Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	Naiscoil Lorcan was established in 2008 and operates as a sessional pre-school service which participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service caters for a maximum of 22 children and operates from 9:00hrs to 12:30hrs each weekday.
Premises	The service operates from a prefabricated building on the grounds of a Primary school in the coastal setting of Omeath in Co. Louth. It consists of a playroom with adjoining sanitary facilities, storage area and access to an outdoor play area on the premises. There is also parking onsite for drop off and collection.
Staffing	The service employs 4 staff including the registered provider, who all work directly with the pre-school children. Three staff working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, that meets at least the minimum required level 5 childcare award.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. 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.
Additional Information	The registered provider has agreed to a referral to an external support agency. This referral was sent on 23/05/22.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (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:

Following a service file review and a discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed to the inspector that there was two new staff members and one student present in the service since the last inspection.

The staff files maintained in relation to the registered provider and the other staff members were previously found to meet the regulatory requirement in relation to Regulation 9 (2) (a), (b), (c), (d) and (4) and therefore are not included in this inspection report.

The staff files in relation to two new staff members and one student were viewed on the day of inspection:

(2)(a) &(b) There were 2 written and validated references from a source other than a past employer available for one new staff member and one written reference for the student attending the service.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 2 new staff members and one student in the service.

(d) Documentary evidence of international police vetting was available for one adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that one new staff member who works directly with the early years children held at least the minimum required level 5 on the National Framework of Childcare Qualifications.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Non-Compliance Information:	(2)(a)&(b) Two written and validated references were not available for one new staff member and one written and validated reference was not available for the student attending the service. (4) Documentary evidence was not available to demonstrate that the certificate available for one new staff member was equivalent to or met the minimum required childcare qualification.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated that the following corrective and preventative actions were carried out: Corrective Action: (2) (a)&(b)References received and validated. (4) Documentary evidence regarding childcare qualifications submitted to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate. Preventive Action: (2) &(4)The registered provider will ensure these measures are completed before staff commence.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliances together with documentary and photographic evidence of the following; • Two written and validated references for 1 staff member. • Photographic evidence of a childcare qualification which met at least the minimum required. Based on this information the non-compliances have been addressed.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) <i>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.</i> (3) <i>Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a <u>sessional pre-school service</u> 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.</i>	
Compliance Information:	(1) During the period of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. (3) On the day of the inspection when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 10:35am, there were 4 adults working directly with the 20 pre-school children present.

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.

Compliance Information:

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service.

Basic Needs:

- The personal care provided met the needs of the children attending the service e.g., hands were washed in general, and noses wiped as required.
- Independence with toileting was promoted in the service and discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Reminders were given to the children regards hand washing. Those children who required assistance with toileting were supported as necessary.
- The service adopts a healthy eating policy. The snacks and lunches were provided by the parents for the children attending the service and were stored appropriately in the fridge on the premises. The children were given a choice at lunch time to have a picnic outside on the parachute or eat inside at tables.
- Drinking water was available for the children in the service. The drinks bottles were stored on a low-level accessible shelf and the children were observed to access these independently as required.

Supporting Relationships:

- The staff reported that most communication with parents is carried out through the informal discussions at drop off and collection time. Social media and a "child diary" via the internet is used to communicate information about the children's basic care needs and activities that are happening in the service.
- The registered provider reported that staff meetings take place 3 monthly. Informal discussions are reported to take place during the school day and social media is also used for staff to communicate with each other.

Physical And Material Environment:

- In general, the children attending the service had free movement within their care room and the outdoor play area.
- Child sized furniture and equipment was in use throughout the service.
- There was evidence of the children's artwork on display e.g., caterpillar sticking & gluing pictures and hedgehogs.
- The playroom was bright and spacious and there were defined areas of interest supported with play materials and equipment. The equipment was suited to the ages and stages of development of the children present and also promoted many areas of child development e.g.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	A home area with a variety of kitchen and dolls supporting equipment and real-world materials, a construction area with work bench and tools, a dress up area, a soft corner with a variety of books on display, cushions, soft toys in baskets and soft carpet. The children also had access to a messy play area that included sand trays, an art area and a variety of plastic toy boxes with manipulative toys such as jigsaws, blocks, shapes and spoons. Outdoor Area: The outdoor play area has been recently developed was accessed by the children independently during the inspection. The area is directly outside the preschool unit and is gated and enclosed. The area has a concrete surface, and a variety of toys and equipment were available for the children e.g. a partially covered area with a sand box and bench seat, a mud kitchen, large wooden blocks, a wooden playhouse, a variety of transport toys such as trucks, diggers and lorries, dolls and buggies, a slide, a water butt and planted boxes. This variety of play materials and equipment offered stimulation to many areas of development including sensory, manipulative, and physical development.
Non-Compliance Information:	The registered provider did not ensure that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service in relation to the following: 1. Documentary evidence of a care plan that focuses on individual needs and the provision of targeted supports, was not available for a number of children who had additional care needs in the service. 2. There was limited evidence of a daily routine being implemented in the service e.g. the children were observed to engage in free play for the majority of the inspection, running in and out between the indoor and outdoor areas. The staff present were also observed to move between the indoor and outdoor area frequently without engaging or completing a structured activity for any period of time.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated that the following corrective and preventative actions were carried out: <u>Corrective Action:</u> 1. Children's care plans, including targeted supports and goals are now discussed with the staff. The best way to support each child's additional needs and goals throughout the daily routine are also discussed with staff together with support from an external agency. 2. The registered provider has commenced engagement with an external agency that provides mentoring and coaching in early years settings and this process will commence in September. With support, the Service has incorporated structured large and small group activities which focus on developing children's interests in the daily routine. Children can now engage with these activities. Staff present are focusing on one area of play to ensure children are supported by familiarity.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	Preventive Action: 1& 2 Care plans will be printed and provided to staff on a regular basis. Staff will be delegated specific areas to decrease the overall work burden on just one member of staff. Structure and planning through the use of staff and support from external Early Years Support agency and will include all staff.
Summary Comment	The registered provider submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliance together with documentary evidence of the following; • A care plan for children who require additional support in the service. • The commencement of engagement with the external support agency. Based on this information the non-compliance has been addressed. Implementation and sustainment of the action plan detailed will require assessment at the next inspection.

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:	It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including: Infection Control: • Running hot water, liquid hand soap and single use paper towels were available in one of the toilets ('boys' toilet) which supports effective hand washing practices • Age-appropriate tools and activities were used to support the children with enhanced hand hygiene measures and other covid-19 related measures e.g., hand washing pictures. • Pedal operated bins were in use in the service. • Windows were open to provide additional ventilation. • The children's perishable lunches were appropriately stored in the fridge on the premises. General Safety: • The service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access to the children and to prevent the children exiting the service or outdoor area unsupervised.
-------------------------	---

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	• Cleaning materials were stored in the locked storage area and were inaccessible to the children. • No cables or trailing wires were evident or accessible to the children. • Fire maintenance records were maintained within best practice guidelines.
Non-Compliance Information:	The Inspectorate is not assured that adequate steps have been taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service based on the observations made on both days of the inspection: Infection Control: The following infection control risks were observed: 1. There was no running hot water available in the 'girls' toilet during the inspection. This does not allow for effective handwashing for the children who were observed to access this area. 2. When questioned about cleaning procedures in the service, the staff informed the inspector that mouthed toys, were cleaned with a chlorine based disinfectant and hot water. Additionally, the staff reported that all toys are cleaned with antibacterial wipes and spray and that a "fogging" machine is used on a Friday. This is not an appropriate method of cleaning toys and is at variance with the services infection control policy that recommends 'toys and equipment are cleaned with general detergent and hot water followed by an appropriate disinfectant if required'. General Safety: 3. The white toy storage unit had sharp edges exposed at a low level which is a potential injury risk. 4. The base of the pink and white playhouse in the playroom was broken and had sharp edges exposed.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated that the following corrective and preventative actions were carried out: Corrective Actions: Infection Control: 1. Contact has been made with a plumber who will attend the service within the next two weeks to fix this problem. 2. All staff and management have reviewed Infection Control Policy together and have discussed cleaning procedures. Staff have been supervised whilst incorporating the correct cleaning procedures in the Early Years setting. No machines are used to disinfect. Warm soapy water, followed by an appropriate disinfectant if required. A deep clean of the premises has taken place (photographic evidence submitted to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate). General Safety:

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	3. Sharp edges on storage units have been covered with corner stoppers. (Photographic evidence submitted to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate). 4. Playhouse has been removed. Preventive Actions: Infection Control: 1 & 2 Staff and Management to keep up to date with cleaning procedures and cleaning will be supervised. General Safety: 3. Ensure all sharp corners are covered for the safety of the children in the setting.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliance together with documentary and photographic evidence of the following; • Detail of repair works carried out by a plumber. • Photographic evidence of hot water temperatures that are within safe limits. • Photographic evidence of protected sharp edges. • Cleaning procedures. Based on this information the non-compliances have been addressed. Implementation and sustainment of the action plan detailed will require assessment at the next inspection.

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) Documentary evidence was provided to demonstrate that a member of staff with a current FAR qualification is available to the children at all times. (2)(a)&(b) The first aid boxes were available in the service and stored in a conspicuous location where they are easily accessible in the event of an emergency.

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

Compliance Information:	(1)(a) A record was maintained of the monthly fire drills which had been completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 08/04/2022. (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was last serviced on 08/11/2021 and the smoke alarms on 10/05/2022. (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency was displayed in the service.
-------------------------	---

Additional Significant Risk Identified

PART VII

Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—
- (d) cleaned, maintained, and repaired, as required,

Non-Compliance Information:	(d) Some areas of the service were not maintained in a clean and hygienic condition including; 1. Some of the toy boxes and shelving units in the playroom had accumulations of dust and dirt particles. 2. The windowsills and sink splash backs in the sanitary areas had accumulations of dust and dirt particles evident.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated that the following corrective and preventative actions were carried out: Corrective Actions: 1. A deep clean has been done in the service, toy boxes and shelving will be checked and cleaned daily 2. A deep clean of the toilet areas has been done this will be maintained and all areas will be checked to ensure they are clean. Preventive Actions: 1. Daily checks on cleaning of shelving and toy boxes will be carried out 2. When cleaning the toileting area more attention to hidden areas such as splashbacks and sanitary areas will be considered.

Additional Significant Risk Identified

PART VII

Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29

Summary Comment	The registered provider submitted details of the corrective and preventative actions taken in the service to address the non-compliances together with documentary and photographic evidence of cleaning carried out in the service. Based on this information the non-compliances have been addressed.
-----------------	---