

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD058
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Philib Barún
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Address of Service:	C/O Gael Scoil, Cruabhaile Uachtarach, Trá Mhór, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 YE27
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Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne De Bhíal
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	Not applicable
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Community Care Building Cork Road, Waterford City
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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).

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Description of service

Naíonra Philib Barún is based in a modular building on the grounds of a Gaelscoil in Tramore. The service is registered to care for up to 22 children aged from 2 to 6 years old. It operates a sessional service from 09:00 to 12:00, five days a week during school term.

There is a small covered outdoor area at the side of the building, but children also have access to the playground facilities of the Gaelscoil.

The service also offers school age care.

Staffing

The registered provider employs two staff members and is included in the roster to care for the children.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment;

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels;

Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child;

Regulation 16 – Record in Relation to Pre-School Service;

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Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and Play;

Regulation 25 – First Aid;

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child and Regulation 16 – Record in Relation to a Pre-School Service.

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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN	02/06/2026	Evidence of Garda vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to children. The vetting disclosure must be submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate prior to the person having access or contact with children.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following serving of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventative action. The registered provider demonstrated that Garda vetting had been received at 11:52 on the 6 July 2026. These actions and the evidence submitted was accepted by the inspectorate.	

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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,
- (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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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

(1)

The registered provider was on the premises on the inspector's arrival. Through discussion with the staff, it was determined that the registered provider or the person in charge is always on the premises during the hours of operation. The registered provider stated the parents are informed of the staff roles at the open evening and at the start of each year.

(2) All three staff files were reviewed by the inspector.

(a)(b) Validated references were available for review.

(d) On a review of documents available, police vetting was not required for staff members.

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(4)

On review of the staff files, evidence was available to demonstrate that all staff working with preschool children had achieved 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(c) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 1424 served.

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)(3) During the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children. There were 3 staff caring for 18 preschool children. The registered provider was rostered to work directly with the children.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 12 children's enrolment forms completed by the parents was reviewed as part of the inspection process. These were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

Compliance Information

- (1) Information required under parts (a) to (i) were available on the day of the inspection. This information was included in the staff files, parental contracts, attendance records, and daily records reviewed.

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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, or
- (b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) Materials and equipment were available on low shelving in the care room allowing children opportunities to choose their activities independently. There was a mixture of natural and artificial materials available. The furniture, fixture and fittings were suitable for the age and stage of the children in each room.

Designated areas of interest were constructed by considered use of furniture, floor coverings, and large play equipment. This created areas of interest for the children, categorising material and equipment into various themes. For example, small world play, the home corner, imagination play, and construction play. These areas were equipped with sufficient material for the children attending the service and reflected the children's interests. The space accommodated children to work in small groups or independently. The storage boxes for the materials and equipment were labelled with photographs to support children in choosing toys and replacing them in the correct containers.

There were visual displays in the Irish language to support children with the gradual introduction to the Irish written word. Staff were noted to use these visuals in conversation with the children for example, they referred to the written word 'Meitheamh' and explained it was the Irish word for the month of June.

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The children's identity and belonging were reflected in the room with the use of the children's names and photographs at the coat hooks, on the birthday posters, and photographs of the extended families on the family tree.

(b) The care room had a cosy area away facing away the main play area where children could sit, rest and take a break from play. This space had the bookshelves and soft furnishings.

- (2) The service had access to the Gaelscoil's outdoor area at the rear of the premises, which was secured with fencing. In addition, to the side of the building there was a small area which was covered which allowed a small group of children to play outdoor in poor weather conditions.

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

- (2) (a)(b) The first aid kit was stored in the room and was conspicuous and accessible if required.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) While it is acknowledged that three staff members were due to attend first aid training to the level of a first responder in the coming week, on the day of the inspection the training certificates had expired.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that the staff attended training following the inspection and a list of renewal dates have been posted to prevent a reoccurrence in the future. Staff have been requested to add a training reminder date to their personal calendar's also.

Supporting documentation submitted

Confirmation of training attended was submitted.

A copy of the renewal date reminder notice was submitted.

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Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.

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) There was a record of fire drills which had taken place. The maintenance records demonstrated that smoke alarms were serviced in January 2026 and the firefighting equipment was serviced in February 2026.
- (4) Evacuation procedures were displayed on the walls of the care room.