

# TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



|                                                             |                                                                                          |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|-----|---|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>                                    | TU2015WX132                                                                              |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Name of Service:</b>                                     | Tir na nÓg Playschool                                                                    |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>                                  | Mountgarrett Lane,<br>New Ross,<br>Co. Wexford.                                          |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Email Address:</b>                                       | liznewross@gmail.com                                                                     |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Name of Registered Service Provider:</b>                 | Liz Murphy                                                                               |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Type of Service Registered:</b>                          | Sessional                                                                                |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>                                  | 1                                                                                        | 2 | 1                                   | 0 | 2  | 0 | 2   | 1 |
| <b>No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:</b> | AM                                                                                       |   | 16                                  |   | PM |   | N/A |   |
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>             | Tusla Child and Family Agency,<br>Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Ely Hospital,<br>Wexford. |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                            | E. Mc Garry                                                                              |   |                                     |   |    |   |     |   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                               | 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 |
|--------------------------|----------------|

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Description of Service</b> | Tir na nOg is a private sessional service which provides an early childhood care and education curriculum to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service has two Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sessions from 09.00hrs to 12.00hrs and from 12.30hrs until 15.30hrs daily.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Premises</b>               | The service is operated from a purpose-built premises on the grounds of the registered provider's home. The building consists of an entrance lobby, a large early years classroom, kitchenette, and toilets. The children have access to two outdoor play areas directly outside the main building.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Staffing</b>               | There were three adults on the premises on the day of inspection. All three adults were working directly with the children. The registered provider also works directly with the children. The manager was present in the service on the day of inspection. All adults working directly with the early years children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Methodology</b>            | <p>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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information obtained through examination of documentation</li> <li>• Direct observation</li> <li>• Discussion with relevant staff</li> </ul> <p>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 inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that the inspector spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 Health Welfare and Development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the early years room and the outdoor areas.</p> <p>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> |
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>       | The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## GOVERNANCE

### 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,
  - (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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and
- (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

#### Compliance Information:

Following a discussion with the manager and a review of documentation in the service it was established that there were two new adults employed in the service since the last inspection on 19 June 2019. These two files were reviewed on the day of inspection. All adult's files were compliant on review at the last inspection.

## Part III - Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (1)(a)  
There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputies as required.
- (b)  
The designated person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)(a)  
There were two written and validated references from past employers available on file for two adults.
- (b)  
There were two written and validated references from reputable sources available on file for two adults.
- (c)  
Garda vetting certificates were available on file for the two new adults working in the service.
- (d)  
Police vetting certificates were not required as neither adult had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.
- (4)  
Qualifications were available on file for the two new adults working directly with children. The adults working directly with the early years children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework
- (6)(a)  
Not applicable as no adult have availed of this declaration.
- (6)(b)  
The service was currently not availing of the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

## 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*  
 (c) *a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information:

- (1)  
There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the early years service throughout the duration of the inspection.
- (3)  
There were 16 children aged 2 to 6 years of age in the care of three adults.
- (8)(c)  
Not applicable as service is not operating as a single-handed practice.

## 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:

The findings of the inspection were evidenced through direct observation, review of documentation and discussion with the adults.

#### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The adults were engaged with the children at all times during the period of inspection. There was constant conversation between the adults and children. For example, in the outdoor area at 11.40hrs adults were observed facilitating various fun activities for all the children attending. Children were given the choice of what they wanted to do outside. Such as drawing on an easel, playing in the mud kitchen, imaginary play in the outdoor child sized kitchen.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- One child who was waiting to be collected and asked, “can I have a quick play”. The child was told by an adult “of course, off you go”.
- Children were observed during their snack time. Adults helped the children with their food and they also encouraged the children to be independent, telling the children to open what they could themselves.
- Adults assisted the children during toileting giving assistance when required.
- One child who did not have English as a first language was proud to demonstrate some new words they had learned since they were last in the service. The adult encouraged, praised and said “well done” to the child.

#### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The service had two large safe and secure outdoor areas situated at the rear and side of the main building.
- The first area was directly outside the main entrance to the service. It was covered in tarmac. There was a shed for the safe storage of ride on toys. The children and adults had used chalk to draw a racing track on the ground of the play area. The children were pretending they were on a racing track riding the balance bikes provided.
- The second area was situated in the garden of the service. This area had been further developed since the last inspection. There was a new outdoor classroom which was roofed and sheltered on three sides. There was a clear easel that could be drawn on with crayons. There were chairs, tables and large boxes for the safe storage of toys and equipment.
- There was a covered sand pit, a large kitchen area that had been fitted with new stainless-steel sinks. There were goal posts and balls. There was a supply of wheelbarrows and children were observed filling the wheelbarrows with stones and moving them around the garden.
- There was an area one child described as the drumming place. There were numerous colanders nailed to the wooden fence. The child demonstrated to the inspector the various sounds the colanders made when hit with a stick.
- There was a further smaller roofed area also resourced with a good supply of diggers and tractors. There was an area set up as a shop. This outdoor area was well maintained and supplied with good quality toys and equipment.
- The early years room was well laid out to facilitate free play. The materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low level shelves.
- There was a rest area in the room located under a fabric canopy with a couch and reading books.

## 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:

The registered provider took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the early years children attending the service:

#### GENERAL SAFETY

- The entrance was locked to prevent children leaving unaccompanied and unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The entrance remained locked for the duration of the inspection.
- All cleaning agents were stored in a safe and secure area which was inaccessible to the children.

#### INFECTION CONTROL

- The service had an infection control policy which had been updated to include measures the service was taking to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the service.
- Cleaning schedules were maintained in the service. Adults described the daily cleaning of toys and equipment in the service. One adult demonstrated how the toys were allocated for the morning and afternoon children. Toys for each group were stored behind coloured coded areas. The areas had curtains fixed to the shelving units ensuring children knew which toys they could access.
- There were documents available in the service to confirm adults had undertaken COVID-19 refresher courses in August 2021 to prepare for the reopening of the service following the summer break.
- Adults who spoke to the inspector demonstrated they were clear in their understanding of the importance of not presenting to work if they displayed any of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- The early years room was well ventilated. The windows were open for the duration of the inspection.
- There was a new sink installed in the outdoor area beside the main entrance to the service. There was warm water, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot controlled lidded bins available throughout the service.
- Adults who spoke to the inspector were clear that they understood the importance of adhering to the procedures in place in the service in the case of an adult or child becoming symptomatic with symptoms of COVID-19. An isolation area had been identified in the service and was equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) should it be required.
- There was a plentiful supply of gloves and disposable aprons in the service.
- Good hand washing practice was observed on the day of inspection. Children were observed being supervised washing their hands after playing in the outdoor area and after using the toilet. Children took pride in demonstrating to the inspector how they used the hand sanitiser. There was a plentiful supply of hand sanitiser in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- Adults were observed using the hand gel provided by the service regularly on the day of inspection.
- There were posters and signs on display outside advising parents of the measures in place to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the service.
- There was an adequate display of signs outside the service stating precautions which were needed to reduce risk of COVID-19 in the service.
- Adults were observed to practice social distancing with each other.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

- The service had a policy for the administration of medication to children attending the service.

## 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)

There was a person trained in first aid for children immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years 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 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had taken place on the 15 September 2021.

(b)

There was a record stating the smoke alarm and firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 8 October 2021.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.