

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DR026
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Seomra Mary
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Address of Service:	Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille, Bealairmín, An Chéim, BÁC 18, Baile Átha Cliath
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Eircode:	D18 TK40
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Butler
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	16/03/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray Co Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond
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).	

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This private childcare service was established by the registered provider in 2014. Part-time care and education is provided for children aged two years and eight months to five years of age through the medium of the Irish language. The hours of operation are from 8.45am to 1.15pm; a concurrent sessional service is provided from 8.45am to 11.45am.

The service operates from a prefabricated structure within the grounds of an Irish language national school in a residential area of south county Dublin. The children have access to the school playground when not in use for school-aged children.

Staffing

There were three adults employed to work directly with children; this did not include the registered provider who does not work in the service on a daily basis. Adults employed to work with children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 25 First aid

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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 co-operation of the designated person in charge and the staff member who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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

The designated person in charge confirmed that two adults had been recruited since the last inspection on the 29 January 2020 and the staff files for these adults were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for both adults employed in the service since the last inspection.
 - (b) An appropriate reference from another source was also available for one adult.
 - (c) Garda vetting was available for both adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required.
- (4) Both adults had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were two adults working with eighteen children.

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 random selection of records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.

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- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) The registration forms for children had no written parental consent for the medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Parents of children currently attending the service were issued with documentation to amend children's registration forms to include consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

Registration forms have been updated to include parental consent for the medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

Supporting documentation submitted

Blank registration form with parental consent for medical treatment.

Evidence that registration forms for children currently attending have been updated to include consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

Summary Comment

Submissions and documentation have been reviewed and the inspector is satisfied that the non-compliance has been addressed.

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Details of children's attendance was accurately recorded in an attendance register.
 - (i) A staff roster was available.
 - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child, should it be required, and that administration of medication should be witnessed.
 - (k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded and there was evidence available that parents are informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

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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) Adults working in the service had appropriate qualifications in first aid and were available to children attending the service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available.

(a) It was stored safely in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available to children at all times.