

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020DS003
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Name of Service:	Naíonra Hanbury Lane
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Address of Service:	3 Hanbury Lane, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 XN92
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinéad Mccarville
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	07/12/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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

Naíonra Hanbury Lane is a private childcare service and is one of three childcare services operated by the registered provider. The service provides sessional care and education to pre-school children from 2.8 - 5 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme and operates from 9.15am-12:45pm Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. The premises is located in a residential suburb of South Dublin and has three care rooms available to the children and a small outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were two adults employed to work with pre-school children. The registered provider does not work in the service, however the area manager arrived subsequent to the inspectors arrival. Adults employed to work with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent.

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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 23, 25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (Record of a Preschool Child). ...

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 children, person in charge and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

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*

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(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

The files for three adults who had access to children were reviewed.

(2)

(a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for three adults employed in the service.

(b) Suitable references from other sources were available for one adult who had only one previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for all adults.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(3)

The procedures specified above were completed prior to the adults commencing in the service.

(4) There was evidence that all adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework for 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.

(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 registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were fourteen children present in the service being supervised by three adults during the inspection.

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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 records were reviewed by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) – (i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(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)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and the snack was provided by the parents or guardians of the children. A variety of foods were provided to the children including fruit, dairy products and sandwiches. Drinking water was available to children throughout the session.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed encouraging children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snack. Children's noses were cleaned as required.

The children spent the morning engaging in activities together including building and imaginative play games. An emergent curriculum was evident in the service. Children's interests were clearly incorporated into the activities and interest areas for example a Santa letter post office was available to the children in one of the care rooms where they could decorate and send their own unique letter. Ongoing observations and assessments were documented which informed curriculum planning.

The atmosphere in the care room was calm, friendly and supportive. The staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children by using soft vocal tones, listening attentively and offering praise and encouragement. Staff were observed to be responsive to the children providing assistance as required.

The staff spent some time practising songs and poems with the children for an upcoming show which helped to develop the language skills of the children present as they sung in both the Irish language and English.

There were three play rooms available to the children, a main room with a variety of Montessori materials from all areas of the curriculum available to the children, two smaller rooms in the front of the building contained construction and imaginative play equipment including a kitchen, work bench and small world play figurines. Low level tables and chairs were provided to meet the children's age.

A small area to the side of the premises was available to the children for outdoor play.

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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:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Children washed hands before their snack and after using the toilet. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap and paper towels. Pedal bins were available throughout the service. All perishable food items were refrigerated when the children arrived to the service.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exit was unobstructed. Evidence of regular recorded fire drills was observed by the inspector

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 with current first aid responder training was available to the children throughout the inspection. Two further adults held certification in Paediatric First Aid.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was available for use at all times.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in November 2023, and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had also taken place on the 6th November 2023.