

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE022

Name of Service: Tir na N'og

Address of Service: Derryvarogue,
Donadea,
Co. Kildare,
W91 VYOT

Email Address: smytanne@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Anne Smyth

Type of Service Registered: **Sessional**

Date of Inspection: 1 1 0 2 2 0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 15

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child and Family Agency,
Vista Primary Care,
Ballymore Eustace road,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Inspection undertaken by : T. Duignan
Title: 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).

Registration Status (completed by the Registration Office):	Registered
Conditions If Applicable	Not Applicable
Additional Notes	
Date of Registration	28 th April 2020

Description of Service	<p>'Tir na N'og' was established in 1999 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years by Anne Smith, the registered provider.</p> <p>The service provides sessional childcare and education to children from 09.30am–12.30pm Monday to Friday. The setting can accommodate a maximum of 22 preschool children for each session.</p> <p>Learning is facilitated through a play based emergent interest curriculum underpinned by Aistear in the service.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is located in a purpose built premises located within the grounds of the registered providers own home in a rural setting in Donadea. There is set down and parking available. The service consists of a large open plan room, a smaller room for arts and crafts activities and a sensory room for quieter activities. A secured outdoor play area is available at the rear of the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>'Tir na N'og' employs 5 childcare staff including the registered provider.</p> <p>The registered provider works directly with the preschool children. The adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an unannounced Focused Inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under three themes: Governance, Health Welfare and Development of the child and Safety.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

--	--

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:

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection and staff rosters indicate that the designated person or deputy is available on the premises at all times.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	<p>(2)</p> <p>(a)(b) Written and verified employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer were available in respect of all adults working in the service.</p> <p>(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all staff employed by the service.</p> <p>(d) Not applicable, as no employee had lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.</p> <p>(4) There was documentary evidence available for all employees working directly with children attending the service that they held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p> <p>(6)(a) Not applicable, as the registered provider confirmed that a declaration letter from the Minister was not required for any employee in the service.</p> <p>(6A) Two persons were employed by the service from the Accessibility and Inclusion model scheme to support four children to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme.</p>
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

	<p>(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></p> <p>(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></p> <p>(8) <i>Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) <i>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.</i></p>
Compliance Information:	<p>(1) There were fifteen pre-school children attending the service being supervised directly by four adults.</p> <p>(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all time in the service and staff rosters verified this.</p> <p>(8)(c) Not applicable, the service was not operated single-handedly. There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection.</p>

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 registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service by:

Basic needs of Infants and Children

The children were supported by the staff members to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development including; hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings and assistance was given when needed.

The service had a healthy eating policy and parents were asked to provide healthy snacks. The staff members sat with the children during snack time and were attentive to their needs; conversations and interactions between the children and the adults were observed to be informative, educational and fun.

The staff members confidently managed children's behaviour and there was an emphasis on praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour.

Pre-school children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the pre-school room. An outdoor play area was available to the children however the weather was poor on the day of the inspection and the children did not go outside however they did a musical activity within the preschool room.

Physical & Material Environment

The curriculum was child led based on the children's natural sense of curiosity, inquiry and emerging interests. In order to facilitate this approach, the pre-school room had defined areas of interest, very well resourced and presented. The environment was well planned and thoughtfully considered from the child's perspective. It was equipped with low level tables and chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials accessible to the pre-school children. The layout and the presentation of the resources in the playroom enabled the children to choose their activities based on their natural sense of inquiry and interests. These included sand and water play, playdough, home corner with dressing up clothes, construction area, arts and crafts area with junk art resources, wooden and plastic bricks, jigsaws, library area, music and musical resources and Montessori equipment. A quiet sensory room was available for small numbers of children to use with a staff member during the morning.

The outdoor area was very spacious and had defined areas of interest; It incorporated natural resources to support children's physical development, their play experience and learning.

There was a good balance between structured work periods and free play which promoted learning for the children in a way that enabled them to consolidate their experiences through imaginative and social play.

The staff member facilitated the children in small groups to extend their play and learning. Children's choices and decisions were respected and they were provided

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

with the freedom to achieve mastery and success.
There was predictability and routine to the morning and the children responded to this very positively. All the children attending on the day of the inspection were observed to be busy, engaged and very happy in their environment.

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 service has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending:

Infection control

The preschool environment was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection through the use of good environmental hygiene practices such as supervision of the children's hand washing, cleaning of tables and work surfaces. A 48 hour exclusion period was in place for any child who had diarrhoea and /or vomiting.

Written cleaning schedules were used in the service to manage and co-ordinate the cleaning of the premises for the purposes of preventing the spread of infection in the service. Hot water, liquid soap and paper towels were available for drying hands after hand washing. Pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of waste material.

Administration of medication.

Staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the administration of medication policy and the safe practices to follow when administering medication including parental consent.

Fire Safety

Fire exits were not obstructed. Fire drills were completed monthly and the staffs were familiar with safe evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency occurring on the premises.

Outings

Outings were conducted by the service and operational guidelines were in place.

General Safety

The external doors to the service were locked.

Safe storage was provided for cleaning agents and equipment, which were out of reach of children.

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:	<p>(1) There were persons qualified in paediatric first aid available on the premises.</p> <p>(2)(a) First aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises.</p> <p>(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the children attending the pre-school service.</p>
-------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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:	<p>(1)(a) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was on 16th January 2020.</p> <p>(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire fighting equipment and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 20th November 2019 and 27th November 2019 respectively.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.</p>
-------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------