

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO044
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Name of Service:	Glór na Nóg -Aghamore Community Childcare
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Address of Service:	Killeen, Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo
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Eircode:	F35 AE65
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Name of Registered Provider:	Malachy Mooney
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/08/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	37	PM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Killeen
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

Glór na Nóg - Aghamore Community Childcare is a community, non-profit service located in Aghamore, Co. Mayo. The service is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional childcare services from 08:00 to 18:00 hours to children aged from one to six years. The service operates from a purpose-built, detached, single-storey building with three playrooms named the Toddler, Junior Preschool and Senior Preschool playrooms. The Toddler playroom has an adjacent sleep area and there is a large lobby, kitchen, sanitary facilities and an office. The service has enclosed outdoor areas for each of the playrooms. The service is registered to provide school-age services.

Staffing

There are 21 staff working in the service, including a manger, childcare staff, administrative staff and kitchen staff. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

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.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c), (4),10,11(1)(2),15(1)(3)(4),16 (1)(2)(3),23,24(1)(3)(a)(b),25(1)(2)(a)(b),28 and 29 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e). These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 record of a preschool child, regulation 16 record in relation to a pre-school service, regulation 24 checking in and out and record of attendance.

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 person in charge, staff 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

(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 ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises for the duration of the inspection. On a review of service rosters, the person in charge or deputy person in charge was always present in the service.
- (c) There was a clear management structure within the service. A governance chart outlining lines of accountability was visible in the main hall. Upon discussion, staff members demonstrated a clear understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and the overall management structure. There were room leaders appointed to each room, and the wider team was fully aware of this setup.

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(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that five adults file required to be reviewed. A total of five files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for seven adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

- (a) Nine written, validated references from past employers for five of the adults were available.
- (b) One written, validated reference from reputable sources for one of the five adults was available.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 21 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4) Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent was on file for three staff members and one staff member held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) The required police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period longer than six months. The document presented did not meet the required standard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (d)

The relevant staff member has applied for Police Vetting. We have updated our induction checklist to mandate that all required vetting including international police vetting must be physically verified and filed before any work commences.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email of application for police vetting submitted.

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Summary Comment

Evidence of an application for police vetting for one staff was reviewed however, a copy of the complete police vetting has not been submitted for one staff to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to Regulation 9 (2) (d) remains out outstanding.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

For the purpose of this inspection, a sample of the required written policies, procedures and statements that are specified and required under schedule 5 of these regulations was reviewed. The following policies, procedures and statements were included as part of this inspection and found to contain the required components.

Policy on administration of medication.

(c) Policy on infection control.

(f) Policy on safe sleep.

(i) Policy on accidents and incidents.

(l) Policy on healthy eating.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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.

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Compliance Information

- (1) There were 11 adults working directly with 37 children on the inspector's unannounced arrival to the service.
Adequate staff were available throughout the inspection to work directly with the children and provide relief cover for breaks.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were maintained during the unannounced inspection in accordance with the required ratios considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:

On the morning of the inspection, the following was observed:

- Toddler room: 3 adults cared for 11 children aged between 2-3 years.
- Junior preschool room: 2 adults cared for 8 children aged between 2 -3 years.
- Senior preschool room: 6 adults cared for 18 children aged between 3-5 years.

In the Afternoon, the following was observed:

- Toddler room: 2 adults cared for 5 children aged between 2-3 years.
- Junior preschool room: 2 adults cared for 6 children aged between 2 -3 years.
- Senior preschool room: 3 adults cared for 10 children aged between 3-5 years.

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;*

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- (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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a-i) Twelve children's records were reviewed. The required information including the authorisation to collect the child, details of illness or special needs of the child, emergency contact and record of immunisations were available on file for each child.
- (3) (c) The records in writing were available for inspection by the early years' inspector.
- (4) The person in charge confirmed that the records are retained for the required period as set out in the regulations.

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;*
- (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.*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (b) a record referred to in subparagraph (h), (j) or (k) of paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service, or in the case of a preschool service in a drop-in centre or of a temporary pre-school service, for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that appropriate records were kept in relation to the service.

- (a) Employees; unpaid workers' and contractors' records were maintained in the staff office.
- (b-f) Details of the type of service, adult-child ratios, programme of care, the facilities available and opening hours were clearly displayed on notice boards throughout the service.
- (g) Policies and procedures were available in a hard copy at in the office for review by parents or staff members.
- (h) Each care room kept accurate attendance records of the children in the service.
- (i) Staff rosters, including start and finish times, were maintained in the office.
- (j) A sample of 19 medication records were reviewed. The records contained the appropriate consent, details of administration and staff signatures.
- (k) A sample of 12 accident and incident records were reviewed. The records contained the required information and were signed by the appropriate people.

(2) (b)

The registered provider is aware of the regulatory requirement to retain attendance records, medication records and accident and incident records for two years after the child to whom the record relates to ceases to attend the service.

(3) All records were made available to the inspector on the day.

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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:

- On arrival to the service, the external doors were secure to prevent an unauthorised person entering the service and children from exiting the service unnoticed.
- The outdoor area was secured with high walls and a bolted gate to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning products used in the service were securely stored so that they were inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Wooden gates were present at each preschool room door to prevent children from leaving the rooms unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- The pre-school rooms and adjoining sanitary facilities were in a clean and hygienic condition. Up-to-date cleaning schedules outlining appropriate cleaning methods and the various areas to be cleaned within the playrooms and sanitary accommodation were available.
- Staff members were observed cleaning play areas and frequently touched surfaces after use by the children and prior to snack and dinner time.
- Thermostatically controlled water, soap, and hand dryers were readily available to the pre-school children to wash their hands prior to eating, after both toileting and nappy changes. Child-friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks. Handwashing was supervised by the adults to ensure all hands were cleaned effectively.
- The care rooms and sanitary accommodation were adequately ventilated by way of openable windows or mechanical ventilation in cases where no window was available. The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection. On discussion with the staff members, they were knowledgeable about the service medication policy. Medication consent forms were in

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place and administration record templates were available if the service required them. The inspector reviewed a sample of administration of medication records and found that these had been completed in adherence to the service policy.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were completed every ten minutes.
- Standard cots were available for children who required them.
- Stackable floor beds were available for children over two years of age.
- All standard cots had the required waterproof coverings and cellular blankets were provided.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Several metal hooks were attached to the wall directly above the soft seating in the rest area. The hooks were at eye level and accessible to the children and posed a risk of injury.
2. A radiator in the rest area has a missing temperature-control cover, leaving a sharp metal spike exposed and accessible to the children. This posed a risk of injury to the children.
3. A small piece of wood located in an area accessible to preschool children was observed to have protruding nails. This presented a risk of harm to the preschool child as the protruding nails had the potential to cause injury to the preschool child
4. A picnic table in the outdoor area, which was accessible to the preschool children, was worn in the middle and had sharp edges that could cause injury to children.

Infection control:

5. Hand-washing practices for children and staff were inconsistent on the day of inspection. Several toddlers did not have their hands washed following nappy changes or before or after dinner. This poses a risk of cross-contamination to children and staff.

Infection control practices observed during nappy changing were not in line with the service's nappy changing procedures, presenting a risk of cross-infection. Specifically, on several occasions, staff did not remove gloves and aprons after disposing of a soiled nappy and before putting on a clean nappy and redressing the child.

6. The nappy bin in the toddler nappy-changing area was observed to be full on the day of inspection, resulting in the lid remaining open and a malodour in the area. Although the bin had a foot-operated mechanism, staff were observed opening the bin with their hands. This presented a risk of cross-infection to children and staff.
7. The covers on a number of seats in the toddler room, nappy changing area and junior preschool rooms were torn, exposing the foam filling. This prevented effective cleaning and presented a potential risk of cross-infection to children and staff.
8. Cushions in the senior preschool room rest area were visibly stained, presenting a potential risk of cross-infection to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Metal hooks have been removed and will not be used going forward. Children's books will now be stored in a basket in the room accessible to the pre-school children.
2. Radiator temperature control cover has been fixed. We have incorporated a check for radiators into the manager's monthly environmental risk assessment tracker and the quarterly self-audit checklist.
3. Nails have been removed. Nails will no longer be used in any classroom when exposed and cause a potential risk to children.
4. Worn wood on picnic bench has been replaced and is ready for painting. Staff meeting held on 13/08/26 and room leaders reminded to report any potential risk to the manager using the risk assessment form. The manager will then implement an action plan to remove the risk. The manager has also added outdoor furniture to monthly environmental risk assessment tracker and the quarterly self-audit checklist

Infection Control:

5. Staff meeting on 13/08/26 explicitly covering the strict requirement to discard both gloves and aprons after every individual nappy change. Nappy Changing Step-by-Step posters have been affixed directly at eye-level on the wall of all nappy changing area.
6. Staff meeting held 13/08/26 with all room staff to reiterate infection control standards and the risks associated with delayed waste disposal. Updated Routine: Revised the daily nappy changing checklist to mandate that bins are emptied whenever they reach three-quarters full, or at a minimum of twice daily.
7. Seating has been removed and new ones have been ordered to replace them
8. Cushion covers removed and laundered: All stained loose cushion covers from the affected room were immediately removed and machine-washed at a high temperature on 13/08/26.

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Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence submitted.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.
3. Photographic evidence submitted.
4. Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

5. No evidence submitted.
6. No evidence submitted.
7. Photographic evidence submitted.
8. Photographic evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

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Compliance Information

- (1) The service demonstrated that all children were checked in on arrival and checked out on departure. A record of these times was maintained in the service.
- (3) On the day of the inspection, the person in charge authorised entry of the inspector and recorded this visit in the visitors' book. The person in charge confirmed that all visitors and contractors to the premises must be approved by a staff member.

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) The registered provider demonstrated, by way of certification, that nine adults held current First Aid Responder (FAR) certification. A FAR-trained adult was immediately available to the pre-school children throughout the service's operating hours.
- (2)
 - (a) (b) First aid boxes containing sufficient, in-date supplies were safely stored in a conspicuous and easily accessible locations and were available to preschool children at all times.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that adequate insurance was in place for the operation of a full day care service for a maximum of 92 children. The insurance was valid from 28 May 2026 until 27 May 2027.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)* On a visual check of the premises, no visible defects were observed.
- (b)* The building was safe and secure on the day of inspection. Access through the main entrance was controlled by a bell entry system. The perimeter was secured by walls with wire-mesh fencing above and locked gates.
- (c)* The care rooms were adequately lit by natural light from numerous large windows and double doors, supplemented by artificial lighting. Radiators were available but not in use due to the hot weather. Fans and openable windows were in use to support ventilation, while mechanical ventilation was provided in the sanitary areas.
- (e)* The Sanitary facilities were sufficient to meet the numbers of the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)* The registered provider failed to ensure that the walls of the senior preschool room were maintained and kept in a good state of repair. Several areas of chipped paint were observed on the walls and required repair.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The areas have been sanded, primed, and repainted the affected walls ensuring a smooth, durable, and washable finish on 22/08/2026. post-painting 22/08/2026 - Area fully cleaned to ensure no dust, debris, or paint fumes remain before children re-entered. All room Leaders will conduct daily visual environment checks. Any reports of non-compliance will be reported to the manager who will address it immediately. The Facility Manager will conduct formal monthly health and safety walk-throughs to identify early signs of wear and tear.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of work completed submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed.