

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO063				
Name of Service:	Tir na nOg				
Address of Service:	The Teeling Centre, Collooney, Co. Sligo				
Eircode:	F91 P68C				
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Walsh				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	13/07/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>32</td> <td>PM</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </table>	AM	32	PM	29
AM	32	PM	29		

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 N Toner
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Tir na nOg is in operation since 2008 and is governed by a local voluntary management committee. The service is registered as a full day care service catering for children aged 0 – 6 years. A school age service is also provided. The service operates weekdays from 8am – 6pm. The service is situated on the outskirts of Collooney in County Sligo, just off the main N17 road a few kilometres from Sligo town. The two-storey building was purpose designed and is part of the Teeling community complex. There are six care-rooms however only five were operating on the day of inspection, two sleep rooms, a reception area and a kitchen for preparing meals served on-site.

Staffing

Twenty-four adults in total are employed in the service. This includes the registered provider, a manager, childcare staff, an administration person, a chef and a part-time caretaker. Two staff are employed to work with the school age children. The registered provider does not work directly with the preschool children and is not involved in the day to day running of 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 9,11,19,23,24,28 and 29 These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under 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 inspectors wish 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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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN1581	07/07/2026	Measures to mitigate sleep room temperatures in the Toddler Room were not sufficient on the day of inspection. Temperatures were recorded 25.9 °C at 13.53hrs and the lowest temperature recorded was 24.3 °C at 13.42hrs. This posed a risk to the preschool children.
Status	The register provider submitted corrective and preventive actions which addressed the statutory notice.	

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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*

(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.*

(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

(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 adult's attendance records the person in charge or deputy person in charge was always present in the service.*

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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 5 new adults had been employed since the previous inspection. 02/05/2024. On the day of inspection, there was 16 adults on the premises. A total of 5 files were reviewed. In addition, Garda vetting for 15 adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (a) There were nine written and validated references available from past employers for five adults.
 - (b) There was one written and validated reference available from a reputable source for one adult.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 24 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 2 adults 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 adults. One adult held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) Two employees who required international police vetting did not have the vetting translated as required.
- (3) A review of documentation evidenced that the requirements of Regulation 9(2) had not been completed prior to one adult being appointed, assigned, or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the preschool service as outlined above under point (2)(d).

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (d)
- The International police vetting for two staff members have been translated as required. Management will ensure that international police vetting has it obtained in the future is translated.
- (3) The adult's employment history was reviewed and updated to include all relevant information and dates. Going forward, all employees' employment history will be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that the required information and dates are included before their start date.

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Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence submitted.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 9 (2) (d), (3) has been adequately addressed

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were 11 adults working directly with 32 children on the inspectors' unannounced arrival to the service.
A review of a sample of attendance records showed that an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children during service hours of operation.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were provided on the morning of the 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:
 - Toddler room: 3 adults cared 7 children aged from 2 to 3 years of age.
 - Wobbler room: 2 adults cared for 7 children aged from 1 to 2 years of age.
 - Baby Room: 1 adult cared for 1 child aged 9 months.
 - Little Leaders care-room: 3 adults cared for 9 children aged 3 years to 4 years of age.
 - Little Learners care-room: 2 adults cared for 8 children aged 4 years to 5 years of age.
 - Little Adventurers care-room: School-age children.

In the afternoon the following ratios applied:

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- Toddler room: 2 adults cared 5 children aged from 2 to 3 years of age.
- Wobbler room: 2 adults cared for 6 children aged from 1 to 2 years of age.
- Baby Room: 2 adults cared for 1 child aged 9 months.
- Little Leaders room 2 adults cared for 10 children aged 3 years to 4 years of age.
- Little Learners room: 2 adults cared for 7 children aged 4 years to 5 years of age.
- Little Adventurers care-room: School-age children.

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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

The person in charge described how they provide balanced meals and snack each day. This was further evidenced by a review of the menu plan, a discussion with staff members and observation of dinner in the pre-school Rooms. The main meal on the day of inspection was, chicken goujons, carrots, mash and gravy. A rolling four-week menu plan was in operation in the service and contained a range of nutritious meals and snacks for children. Alternatives were provided for those with specific dietary requirements. Meals were timed appropriately throughout the day, and children were provided with cutlery and crockery appropriate to their age and stage of development. Staff were observed to sit down at the tables and have child led discussions during mealtime, offering support and encouragement when needed. Older children who were toilet-trained were observed to be independent in their toileting needs with staff providing assistance when required. Children's sanitary accommodation was available adjacent to each of the pre-school rooms facilitating easy access. Younger children were routinely brought to the nappy change area in a respectful, and sensitive manner. Children were changed outside of this routine should it be required. During nappy changing staff spoke to and interacted positively with the children. Comfortable seating, mats and cushions were available and accessible to children in all care rooms to allow children the opportunity to rest and relax if they wished throughout the day. Children were observed moving freely around each care room and there was space in each room for children to play together in small groups.

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Supporting Relationships around children:

Staff members were observed interacting warmly with the children, responding appropriately to their verbal and non-verbal cues and providing meaningful responses. Children were observed to seek out staff members for assistance and comfort when upset. This was responded to in a caring and positive manner by staff members. Children were actively praised by staff members for their involvement in activities and on completion of tasks, particularly when they provided help to staff or other children. Staff were observed praising children for their helpful behaviour towards others promoting a culture of working cooperatively and helping others. Settling in and transitions were made as smooth as possible within the service. One child in the wobbler room had recently commenced attending the service beginning with short days, leading into longer days, this child needed additional support and comforting at times during the day which was promptly and kindly offered by the staff members, with cuddles, reassuring words and singing provided with soothing effect. Staff and parents work in partnership within the service. The use of daily information forms provided information to parents in relation to eating, nappy changes, activities, sleep, and sleep checks. Many children demonstrated a sense of pride in their success during the session and were observed calling on the staff members to share their achievements. The staff members informed the inspector that information is verbally given at drop off and collection.

Physical and Materiel Environment:

All care rooms were laid out with various materials and resources to create interesting areas of play for the children according to their age and stage of development. Low level shelving was provided to allow children choice over the equipment and materials they played with. The interest areas were well resourced with supportive equipment providing ample opportunities for children to engage in meaningful play. Interest areas included home corners, construction, book, transport, farm, and art areas. Equipment and resources to support fine motor and cognitive development were easily accessible to children on low level shelving. Consideration was given within the playrooms to ensuring children had access to both open ended learning materials and materials to engage the senses, particularly sight, touch and sound. Wall displays and images within the playrooms were carefully considered, relevant to the interest areas and reflective of children's natural world, home life and community. Access to a good range of age appropriate and stimulating books was promoted in library areas. Adult sized chairs were available to adults in the baby room to ensure comfort when cradling and caring for children throughout the day.

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Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

It was observed that drinking water was not readily available or accessible to the pre-school children throughout the session. This was evidenced during dinner time, when children were served their meals without any drinks being offered until after they had finished eating; during this time, one child was observed coughing while eating and only stopped once staff provided a drink. This posed a risk of safety to the preschool child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (a)

A designated water station, including a mini water dispenser and cups has been implemented into each room and is readily accessible to the children at all times. Management will ensure that the station remains stocked and accessible and that drinking water is offered with all meals and snacks.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 19 has been adequately addressed.

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. A buzzer system was in place to facilitate admission to the service.
- All internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.
- Toys and resources were observed to be in a good state of repair.

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- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- The outdoor area was secured with walls and a bolted gate to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children attending the service
- Highchairs within the baby room were fitted with a 5-point safety harness and were in good sate of repair.

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 children's use and prior to snack time.
- Soap was readily available to 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. Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks.
- Soothers were stored individually with children's names on them.
- The care rooms and sanitary accommodation was 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.
- Tables and highchairs were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in both care rooms.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available within the service for safe disposal of waste.
- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.

Administration of Medication:

- On discussion with the staff members, they were knowledgeable about the service medication policy. Medication consent forms were in place and administration record templates were available if the service required them.

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.

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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. See statutory notice section in relation to immediate action notice IAN1581 served.
2. Medication and cleaning products were being stored in an unlocked press in the baby room. These products were accessible to the pre-school children and pose a risk to the health of a child if ingested.
3. The baby sleep room and nappy changing area had a quantity of equipment including boxes of toys, spare waste bins and a portable radiator stored on shelves and under cots room which could potentially pose a fire risk due to overcrowding of shelves. This was identified on a previous inspection on the 02 May 2024 and the actions submitted by the registered provider failed to address this non-compliance reoccurring.

Infection Control:

4. Infant formula was observed to be prepared on site in the care room. This is in contradiction to the food safety guidance on compliance in relation to the instant formula was identified on the service last inspection on 02 May 2024 and the actions taken by the registered provider failed to prevent a reoccurrence.
5. Bibs and tea towels were stored in a press along with a rodent box, this could pose a risk of cross contamination to the preschool children.

Administration of Medication:

6. A review of medication administration records in the wobbler room revealed that three of the files reviewed were missing parental signatures that medication has been administered. This could pose a risk of accidental overdose of medication.

Safe Sleep:

7. During the inspection, it was found that staff members supervising the sleep of pre-school children in the toddler Room were unfamiliar with the safe sleep procedures outlined in the service policy. Specifically, staff in the toddler Room did not know what actions to take if the room temperature rose above recommended safe sleep levels. Staff was also failing to record the temperatures in the sleep log despite policy requirements to do so.
8. Contrary to the service sleep policy, physical sleep checks were not carried out every ten minutes. Sleep checks were recorded at 13:10, but the next check did not occur until 13:31. This poses a risk to the preschool children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

2. The registered provider stated that the medication and cleaning products were immediately removed and stored on a high shelf, out of reach of children. In addition, signage identifying the designated storage location for medication and cleaning products has been put in place. A lock has also been fitted to the press to ensure these products remained inaccessible to the children.
3. Additional designated press has been provided in the baby room for the storage of additional equipment and resources to prevent equipment from being stored in the sleep room and nappy changing areas.

Infection Control:

4. A newly developed feeding policy outlining procedures for the storage and use of pre-prepared bottles supplied from home and parents have been informed of the new policy. A designated bottle-preparation area identified in the wobbler room for circumstances where infant formula was required to be prepared. The feeding policy will be included in the service registration forms and parent information pack. The policy and the food safety authority of Ireland guidance on the safe preparation powdered infant formula have now been displayed in the baby and wobbler room.
5. On the day of inspection, the bibs and tea towels were immediately removed from the press. A clean designated storage area has been identified for storage of extra bibs and tea towels.

Administration of Medication:

6. The medication administration forms were completed, including parents' signature. Medication administration forms were reviewed and updated clearly outlining the information required to include parent signature.

Safe Sleep:

7. The safe sleep policy has been updated and reissued, updated sleep records include room temperature, and the policy is displayed in relevant rooms. Existing staff were reminded of the safe sleep procedures, which will also form part of the staff induction.
8. The safe sleep policy has been updated and reissued; management have discussed with all staff the requirement for regular physical sleep checks and displayed reminder notices. Practical safe sleep training will be provided to current and new staff and reordered on their files.

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Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. See statutory notice for response.
2. Photographic evidence was submitted.
3. Photographic evidence was submitted.
4. Photographic evidence was submitted.
5. Photographic evidence was submitted.
6. Photographic evidence was submitted.
7. Photographic evidence was 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.*
- (4) *A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The service demonstrated that all children are checked in on arrival and checked out on departure. A record of these times is maintained in the service.

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(3) (a) (b) On the day of the inspection, the registered provider authorised entry of the inspector and recorded this visit in the visitors' book.

(4) The service has a visitors' book which provides a record of all people visiting the service. The registered provider was aware of the requirement to retain the record referred to in paragraph (3) (b) For a period of one year.

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 adequate insurance was in place for the full day care service for 90 children up until 27 March 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

The registered provider ensured that the premises of the service was:

- (a) The service was observed to be of sound and stable structure.
- (e) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities on the day of inspection.

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Non-Compliance Information

- (b) There was exposed electrical wires on the stairway to the upstairs Little Learners room. These wires were accessible to the pre-school children who used these stairs to access the Little Learners room.
- (c) The air circulation system in the Toddler baby changing room was not working leading to a stale odour in the room with poor air circulation. This practice was found to be non-compliant on previous inspections in May 2024. The corrective actions submitted following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
- (d) Two wooden benches in the main outdoor and Little Leaders outdoor area were not maintained. There was exposed jagged edges and screws which posed a risk to the preschool children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (b) The exposed electrical wires have been enclosed in an electrical box. The building and surrounding areas will be assessed regularly for potential hazards.
- (c) The air circulation system has been cleaned. The air circulation system in the toddler room has also been replaced. The system will be regularly checked and maintained with replaced if required.
- (d) The damaged wooden benches have been removed and replaced with durable recycled-plastic benches which arrived on the day of the inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

- b. Photographic evidence submitted.
- c. Photographic evidence submitted.
- d. Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

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