

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

EARLY YEARS

INSPECTORATE

**Inspection in Early
Years Services**

Who are the Early Years Inspectorate?

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. This means that under the law we must ensure that inspections are carried out regularly.

We are responsible for inspecting playgroups, day nurseries, crèches, day care and similar services that are listed on the early years services National Register catering for children aged 0 - 6 years. Collectively, these services are called the 'early years services' and in legislation they are referred to as 'Pre-school services'.

We are committed to ensuring that children attending early years services are safe, receive appropriate care, and have a positive experience where they can develop and learn in a quality early years service. We achieve this through the registration, inspection and enforcement processes.

Why do we inspect?

We inspect services to determine if:

- your service is well-governed
- the health, welfare and development of each child is supported
- children are safe in your service
- your premises are safe and suitable for the care and education of children.

Are there different types of inspection

There are three types of inspection:

- Planned:
 - at least once in our three-year registration cycle
 - registration cycle monitors compliance with the Regulations.
- Unplanned:
 - when there is a change in the provider's circumstances
 - when there are concerns about a service
 - when an enforcement action requires it.
- Fit for purpose:
 - before opening a new service
 - when a provider applies to make a substantial change to the type of service they provide.

What happens after inspection?

Fully compliant inspection

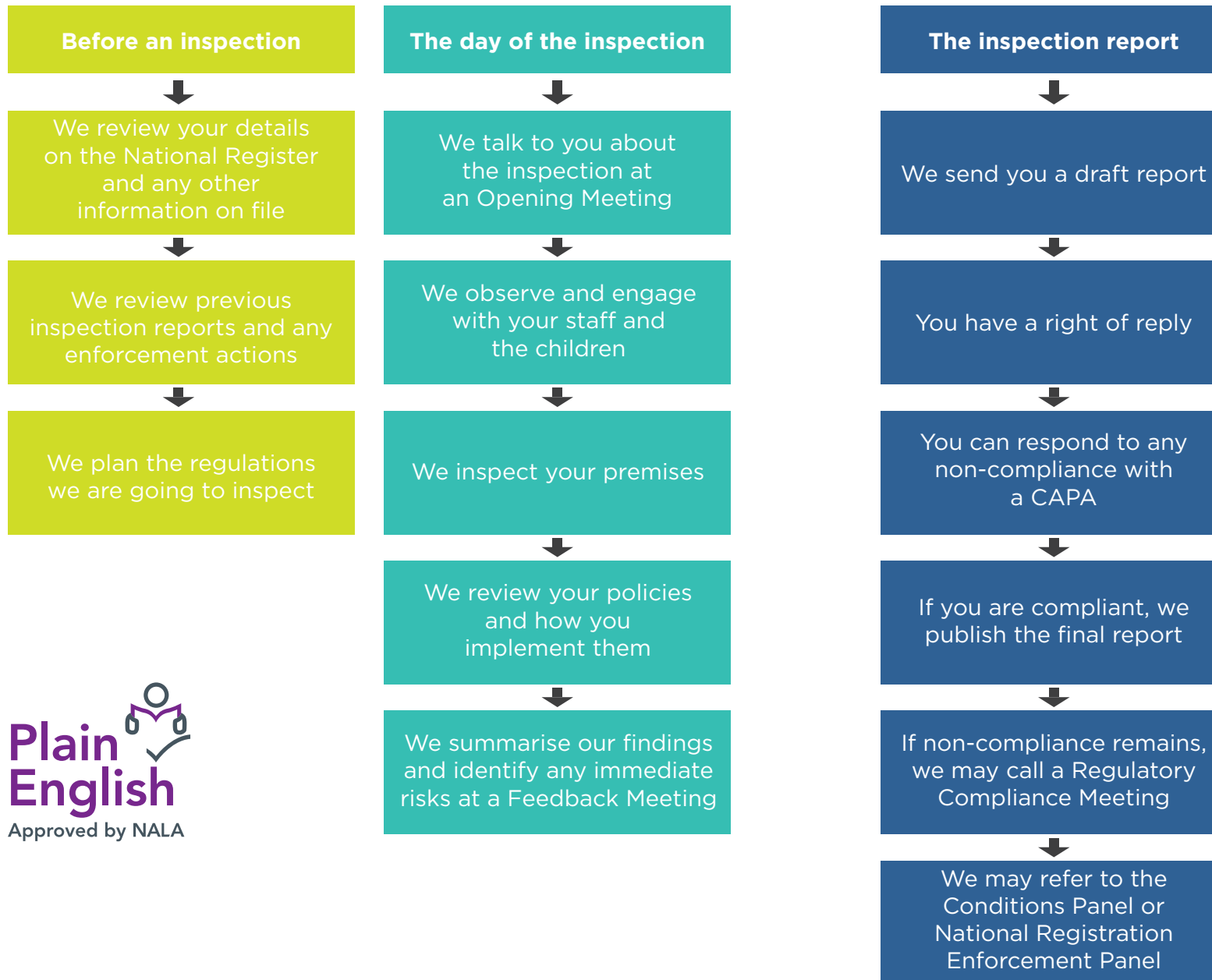
If your service has received a fully compliant inspection report, you should return the reviewed draft report and the Factual Accuracy Form, if required, to the inspector. We will then finalise the report and publish it on the Tusla website.

Non-compliant inspection

If a service is non-compliant, we will send you:

- a draft inspection report with a Factual Accuracy Form, and
- a request for a Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) plan for you to detail how you will remedy and prevent recurrence of the non-compliances identified on inspection.

What is involved in an inspection



CAPA response

If you receive a request for a CAPA, you have 10 working days to respond with your plan. If we determine that your response is sufficient, we will complete the report and publish it on the Tusla website. If the initial CAPA response is insufficient, we may ask you to submit a second CAPA or you may be called to a Regulatory Compliance Meeting.

Process for continued non-compliance

If your service continues to be non-compliant, we may schedule a Regulatory Compliance Meeting with you and the inspector, as well as the Inspection and Registration Manager. This meeting will identify any outstanding issues and you will have the opportunity to ask for clarification on the draft report and the non-compliance identified.

If this meeting does not ensure compliance, we may refer the matter to the National Registration and Enforcement Panel or the Conditions Panel. We will take this action if we feel the risk posed to children warrants it. You have a right of reply at all times.

You can find more information on inspection and enforcement in our **A Guide to inspection in Early Years services.**

Why do we inspect?

- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendments) Regulations 2016

- Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act amended the Child Care Act, 1991



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