

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019LS002SA
Name of School Age Service:	Fairbrother Childminding Ltd T/A Lisduff Farm
Name of Registered Provider:	Roseleen Fairbrother
Address of School Age Service:	Lisduff Errill Portlaoise Laois
Eircode:	R32KH70

Date of Inspection:	8 May 2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	35

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

Tusla's 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).

Description of Service:

Fairbrother Childminding Ltd is a standalone school age service located in a play centre in a rural setting in Lisduff, Errill, south west Laois. The service is registered to accommodate children in the age range 4 to 15 years and is operational between the hours of 7.00am and 6.00pm. The standalone building has a reception area, two large playrooms with a seating area off one room for meals, sanitary accommodation for boys and girls, staff sanitary accommodation, a kitchen, a storeroom for toys and play equipment, and a hallway to hang coats. A large outdoor play area is available at the front of the service and directly outside of the service. The service operates for 50 weeks of the year. Children attend between 1.30 and 6.00pm during school term and between 7.00am and 6.00pm outside of school term.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by eight staff members working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a planned focused inspection of the service.

Legislation

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of School Age Services in Ireland, and its role is to promote and monitor the safety and quality of school age care provision in accordance with the following legislation:

- The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Part 12.
- Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.
- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services

Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018).

A school age service means any early years service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service which:

- caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,
- provides a range of activities that are developmental, educational and recreational in manner, which take place outside of school hours, the primary purpose of which is to care for children where their parents are unavailable, and
- the basis for access to which is made publicly known to the parents and guardians of the children referred to in point (a) above.

It is the responsibility of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of school age children and the above legislation authorises Tusla to assess compliance with the Regulations.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection is unannounced to assess compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018), Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

The findings on inspection are gathered through a triangulation method, including:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation.
- Direct observation.
- Discussion with relevant staff.

This inspection aims to determine the extent to which service is appropriate for the care, safety, and wellbeing of children in accordance with the regulations cited above.

Inspection findings are documented in the School Age Services 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 corrected the non-compliance and how they will prevent them 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 CAPA 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.

Acknowledgements:

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provider, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

On inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in relation to the following:

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures;

Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels;

Regulation 11: Premises;

Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service 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.

(2) The procedures specified in paragraph 1 shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The inspector reviewed the staff files for the eight staff working the service and the registered provider.

(1)(a)

Two written and validated references from past employers were held of file in respect of four staff members.

(b)

Two written references from reputable sources were held on file in respect of two staff members and the registered provider. References were validated in respect of staff members.

(a)(b)

A written and validated references from past employers and reputable sources were held on file in respect of the remaining two staff members.

(c)

A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was held on file in respect of all staff members and for the registered provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of all staff members.

(d)

International police clearance was held on file in respect of a staff member who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as an adult.

(2)

Records held on file confirmed that all of the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to the appointment of staff employed to work directly with the children in attendance in the service.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children at all times while the service is operating.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(2)

The minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained at all times on the day of inspection. Five staff cared for 32 children at 2.50pm on arrival of the inspector. The five staff present cared for 35 children on the arrival of the last school bus at 3.00pm. At 4.40pm, the five staff cared for 31 children remaining in the service. Children were signed in on arrival to the service and signed out on collection from the service.

The inspector reviewed the childrens attendance records and the staff roster for the week of 5 May 2026. Records confirmed that five staff cared daily for a maximum of 45 children in daily attendance.

Regulation 11: Premises

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that-

(a) an outdoor space to which the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(a)

The outdoor play area was subdivided into areas finished with a grass surface, a section with chippings and an enclosed area with play equipment safely anchored to a shock-absorbent surface. Goal posts, slides, climbing frames and swings were provided on the grass surface and a large area for children to run around and play ball games. A merry-go-round and a large climbing frame were anchored to the ground in the enclosed area, the ground surface underneath the equipment was covered with a shock-absorbent surface.

Picnic tables and chairs were provided on a paved area outside for children to sit outdoors for activities and for meals served directly by the service. surface. An enclosed pitch and putt course formed part of the outdoor play area. A pond was located in the outdoor play area which was enclosed by fencing.

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Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

It shall be the duty of every person providing an early years service to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with regulations made by the Minister under this Part.

Regulatory Requirement Met

Two staff members working in the service and present on the day of inspection had First Aid Responder (FAR) training with an expiry date of 30 April 2026.