

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021CE015SA
Name of School Age Service:	Mother Goose Creche
Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Devereux
Address of School Age Service:	Clonfadda Killaloe Co Clare
Eircode:	V94 YP63

Date of Inspection:	27 February 2025		
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM	16	
Registration status:	Registered		
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House Henry Street Limerick V94 XT5F
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien & J Dennehy
Title:	Early Years Inspector & Inspection Registration Manager

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).

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Description of Service:

Mother Goose Creche was established in 2000, as a private childcare facility in Killaloe, County Clare. The service operates a school age service for children aged 4 to 10 years. The service operates from 1.30pm to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. The service is located in a residential premises that has been adapted to a childcare service. There is a large outdoor area to the rear of the premises. Mother Goose Creche is also registered as a full day care service for preschool children.

Staffing:

The service employs five staff including the registered provider and a person who is aged under 18 years to care for school-age children.

Additional Information:

The inspection was carried out as a result of information received by the inspectorate.

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:

- a) caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or

post-primary education,

- b) 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
- c) 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provider 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(1)(4): Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

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

- Regulation 9(2): Staffing Levels.
- Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspector reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. The non- compliances found on inspection have been adequately addressed.

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.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1) Five staff files were reviewed including the file of the registered provider.

(a) Nine of the 10 references available were from a previous employer and were validated.

(b) One of the 10 references available was from a reputable source and was validated.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all five staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any staff member as they had not lived outside of the state for longer than six consecutive months.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

- (1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of competent and suitable adults on the premises while the service is operating.*
- (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.*
- (4) *A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the school age children attending the service are appropriately supervised at all times.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1)
- The registered provider ensured that adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection. Sixteen children attended the service and were supervised by three staff members including the registered provider.
- It was observed that the registered provider and another staff member collected children from the local national schools in the area on two buses owned by the service.
- (4) Staff were observed supervising the children at all times while in the school age care room and outdoor area during the inspection. Staff were observed chatting to the children during dinner time and supported children to do their homework. Staff were observed supervising children by sight and sound in the outdoor area that was available to the school age children.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (2)
- Staff rosters and children's attendance records were reviewed for the week commencing 17 February 2025, and outlined the service did not maintain the minimum adult child ratios at all times while the service was in operation.

On 17 February 2025, 17 school age children were being cared for by 1 staff member and a person aged under 18 years old, who cannot be included in the adult child ratios.

On 18 February 2025, 20 school age children were being cared for by 1 staff member and a person aged under 18 years old, who cannot be included in the adult child ratios.

Therefore, adult child ratios were not maintained at all times while the service was in operation.

This posed a risk to the school age children in attendance as adequate care and supervision may not have been maintained.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The registered provider submitted documented evidence of a staff roster indicating two staff members are rostered to work in the school age service at all times. A person aged under 18 years old, is also rostered to work in the school age service and is no included in the adult to child ratios.

Preventive Action

An additional member of staff has been employed in the service from 10 March 2025 as relief in the event of staff absences in the service. The service director is now also rostered to work in the service to ensure adult to child ratios can be adhered to.

Summary of Findings

The documented evidence submitted has been reviewed and has met the regulatory requirements.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 75 children in the childcare service. Insurance was valid from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.

The service also had the appropriate insurance cover to transport children from the local national schools. Motor insurance was valid from 28 May 2024 to 27 May 2025, and the policy confirmed the service had cover to transport children.

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

During the inspection, the inspectors observed the health, safety and welfare of children being supported by the following:

- The staff were observed speaking to the children in a respectful manner. The staff were observed asking the children if they would like dinner and listened to each child's needs.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor area.

Regulatory Requirement not met

The following regulatory requirement was not met and may present as a health and safety risk to a school age child:

1. A portable toilet was located in the outdoor area for the school age children. Children were observed playing around the portable toilet. This posed a potential health and safety risk to the school age children due to the chemicals located within the portable toilets.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The portable toilet has been removed from the outdoor area and is not accessible to the children when using the outdoor play area. A risk assessment has been carried out on the new location of the portable toilet.

Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated that works have begun in the development of an additional sanitary facility, therefore the portable toilet will not be required once the works have been completed.

Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed and has met the regulatory requirements.