

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021DY053SA
Name of School Age Service:	Early Journeys
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Rita Keszei
Address of School Age Service:	74 Shantalla Road, Beaumont, Dublin 9
Eircode:	D09 AY28

Date of Inspection:	21/04/2026
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 14

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, 7 th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster and T. Nelson
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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:

Early Journeys is located in North Dublin and provides school-aged care to children aged from four to twelve years of age. The service operates from Monday to Friday from 13:45pm-18:15pm during term time, and 07:30am-18:00pm during non-term time. The children have access to two care rooms, sanitary facilities, and an outdoor area onsite. Additionally, the service operates as a registered sessional pre-school service in the mornings.

Staffing:

The registered provider does not work within the service. The registered provider employs seven staff members, some staff members work solely with school-age children, whilst some work in the registered pre-school and school age 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:

- 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, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Statutory Notices		
Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN0321	21/04/2026	Evidence of international police vetting was not available for one adult who had access to children.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately and the provider submitted a written response which detailed corrective and preventative actions were accepted by the inspectorate. Police vetting must be provided to the inspectorate before the person is allowed access to children.	

Summary of Findings:

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c): Vetting disclosures.
- Regulation (9)(1)(4): Staffing levels.
- Regulation 11 (a)(b): Premises.

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be non-compliant in:

- Regulation 8(1)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures.
- Regulation 9(2): Staffing levels.
- Child Care Act 1991, 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 files of the registered provider and seven staff members employed within the service. There were two written and validated references available for the registered provider and two written and validated references available for each of the seven staff members from either a previous employer or source other than a previous employer. Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seven staff members and the registered provider. These Garda Vetting disclosures available were dated within the last three years, demonstrating compliance with the Renewal of Garda Vetting regulatory notice. Documentation available demonstrated that police vetting was not required for one staff member. The inspector was able to review the police vetting required for the registered provider and six staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction for six months or more.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1) (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN0321 served.
- (2) The registered provider had not ensured that vetting procedures had been completed prior to staff being employed and working directly with the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The management has ensured that international police vetting is now obtained and maintained for all staff members who have resided outside the state for more than six months as an adult, in line with regulatory requirements. To prevent similar issues arising in the future regarding international police vetting requirements, Early Journeys will strengthen its recruitment and onboarding procedures by introducing a mandatory declaration form requiring all prospective and existing staff to disclose any periods of residence outside Ireland. Moving forward, management will implement enhanced staff declarations and file review procedures to ensure all international vetting requirements are identified and completed promptly in line with regulatory expectations.

Summary of Findings

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 8.

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) There were two adults working with fourteen children in the care room on the day of inspection.
- (4) Adequate supervision of children was observed on the day of inspection.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(2) The adult to child ratio did not remain consistent throughout the inspection. The inspectors documented a number of instances throughout the afternoon where staff were observed to leave the care room, where one adult and fourteen children remained, leaving the required adult to child ratio inconsistent.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

Staffing arrangements and room supervision procedures have been reviewed to ensure the required adult-to-child ratios are maintained consistently at all times. Staff have been reminded that care rooms must not be left understaffed when leaving the room. Management will continue to monitor compliance through regular supervision and spot checks. Management will implement ongoing monitoring of staffing ratios through daily room checks and staff scheduling reviews. All staff will receive refresher training on ratio requirements and supervision responsibilities to ensure compliance is consistently maintained throughout the day.

Summary of Findings

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

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) An outdoor space was available toward the rear of the service. Children were observed using the outdoor space on the day of inspection.

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:

- Interactions with children were observed as kind and children were seen to partake in various tabletop activities on the day.
- The children were provided with a hot meal of chicken casserole, rice, broccoli and sweetcorn, and showed familiarity with the dinner time routine. Children were encouraged to independently serve and plate their own food portions, with additional portions available.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. On the day of inspection, it was observed that the children did not have access to or were provided with outdoor play equipment during their time at the service. Outdoor play equipment is essential for children to explore and engage with their physical and cognitive development.
2. Upon viewing service documentation, the inspector was unable to attain clarity to determine afternoon staffing, as the available roster was disjointed and unclear. Adequate and clear staffing documentation provides assurance to children and staff to plan for appropriate staffing and supervision for the safe care of children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

1. A range of outdoor play equipment and toys have been purchased to support children's physical, social, and cognitive development. Children now have regular access to age-appropriate outdoor resources to promote active play, exploration, and learning experiences outdoors. Management will carry out regular reviews of outdoor resources and play opportunities to ensure children have ongoing access to suitable outdoor equipment.
2. The staffing roster has been reviewed and updated to ensure it is clear, accurate, and easy to follow throughout the day, including afternoon staffing arrangements. Management has

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implemented a more structured rostering system to clearly identify staff allocation, room coverage, and break times to support appropriate staffing levels at all times. Management will ensure that all staffing rosters are completed in a clear, consistent, and standardised format to allow for easy interpretation of staffing levels at all times. Regular roster audits and supervisory checks will be carried out to ensure accuracy and clarity. Staff will receive guidance on maintaining up-to-date records of attendance, room allocation, and break coverage to support effective workforce planning.

Summary of Findings

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018) and will be reviewed on the next inspection.