

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021FL028SA
Name of School Age Service:	Funtimes Creche
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Caroline Quinlan
Address of School Age Service:	1 Nual Road Balbriggan Co Dublin
Eircode:	K32 K259

Date(s) of Inspection:	17 June 2024
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 28
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	M. McDonnell
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

Description of Service:

Funtimes Creche is a school age service based in a converted two-storey property in a residential area of Co Dublin. The service caters for children aged 4-12 years old. The service is open Monday to Friday and is registered to provide a breakfast club from 7.30 to 9.00am and afterschool care from 1.40 to 6.15pm. The service is registered to operate during non-term time from 7.30am to 6.15pm. There is also a registered pre-school in operation at the service. The school age children are based in two adjoining rooms on the first floor of the property. Sanitary facilities are available for the use of the school age children and there is an outdoor play area and a kitchen on the site.

Staffing:

The registered provider works in the service in a supernumerary capacity. The registered provider employs seven staff members who work directly with the children who attend the service. Three of these are new staff members who have been employed since the last inspection in November 2022.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a follow-up 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 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 the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in:

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance.
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow-up actions:

The service was compliant with the regulations examined and there are no follow up actions following the inspection.

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 of the three new staff members employed in the service since the last inspection in November 2022. There were two written and validated references available for the three staff members from a previous employer or source other than a previous employer. A Garda vetting disclosure, dated within the last three years, was available for the three new staff members, the staff member employed at the time of the last inspection and the registered provider. The service had therefore demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. A review of documentation demonstrated that police vetting was not required. A review of documents demonstrated that vetting procedures had been completed before the new staff members had commenced employment in the service.

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)(2)

The registered provider and 3 staff members were working directly with the 28 children who attended the service on the day of the inspection.

(4)

The inspector observed appropriate supervision of the children during the inspection. For example, children were offered a choice of playing outdoors or remaining in the care room. All the children chose to play outdoors and staff interacted with them by playing ball games and completing art activities in the covered outdoor area.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service was insured from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025 for a maximum of 95 children. On the day of the inspection, there were 28 school age children in attendance.

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 inspector observed the health, safety and welfare of children being supported by the following:

- Following the last inspection in November 2022, the registered provider stated that they would ensure staff appraisals were completed in line with the service's supervision policy. The inspector reviewed a sample of records relating to staff who had worked in the service at the time of the last inspection. There was evidence that yearly appraisals had taken place since the last inspection. A sample of the files relating to new staff demonstrated that an induction process had occurred. This was confirmed when discussing induction training with new staff. A sample of staff also spoke with the inspector about being able to speak with management staff and the registered provider on an informal basis. This concerned issues such as activities and these supplemented the team meetings, for which records were available.