

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021FL037SA
Name of School Age Service:	Sticky Fingers
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Breda Byrne
Address of School Age Service:	14 Porters Gate Green Clonsilla Dublin
Eircode:	D15PR58

Date of Inspection:	11 November 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 35
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, 7 th Floor Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08X01K
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster and C. Harte
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).

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Description of Service:

Sticky Fingers childcare is a combined pre-school and school aged service, based in Dublin North that provides care for school aged children from 4-12 years old. The service operates from 2:00pm-6:00pm. The children have direct access to a secure outdoor area.

Currently, the service is operating from two cabins at the rear of the building as the main building is currently out of operation.

Staffing:

The registered provider works within the service. There are three staff members employed by the registered provider to work directly with school-aged children. The registered provider and two staff were present on the day of inspection.

Additional Information:

The inspection was triggered following the receipt 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

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- 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.

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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.
- Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b)(c): Complaints.
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

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

- Regulation 13 (2)(a)(b) Complaints.
- 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 actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their preventive and corrective action plan, have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection.

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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)(a)(b)(c)(d)

The file of one adult who had commenced employment since the last inspection on the 21 June 2023 was reviewed along with a garda vetting disclosure for one staff member whose file was reviewed on a previous inspection. There were two written and validated references available for the staff member. There was Garda Vetting disclosures available for two adults, and these demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years. There was documentation available to demonstrate that international police vetting was not required for one adult.

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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 appropriate ratios maintained during the inspection. The inspectors observed three staff members, including the registered provider working with 35 children on the day of inspection.

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, or*

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (a)
- There was an outdoor space on the premises, and on the day of inspection, children were observed accessing and enjoying the space.

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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 2025 to 27 March 2026 for a maximum of 72 children. On the day of inspection, there were 35 school-aged children in attendance.

Regulation 13: Complaints

- (1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies—*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*
- (2) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that—*
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the school age service, and*
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(a)(b)(c)

The registered provider had a complaints policy in place that was reviewed by the inspectors. The complaints policy detailed the procedure in making a complaint and how verbal and written complaints would be dealt with. The policy referenced how a complainant would be kept informed of the complaints procedure and the appeals process.

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Regulatory Requirement not met

(2)(a)(b)

- The inspectors were unable to attain or ascertain if there had been any complaints made to the service in respect of school-age children.
- The registered provider did not furnish the inspectors with complaints record in respect to a school-aged service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(2) (a)(b)

The registered provider has ensured that a designated complaints folder is present and on the premises at all times, reiterating that a complaint will be dually recorded and kept in the complaints folder.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their preventive and corrective action plan, have addressed the non-compliances identified on 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 inspection, the inspectors observed the health, safety, and welfare of children being supported by the following:

- Positive interactions were observed between staff and children and stepping in to support when needed.
- Children were provided with an adequate supply of food and drink. Children were offered a hot meal and a snack for later in the evening.
- A variety of play equipment was available for the children within the rooms. This included

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arts and crafts, board games, and various types of block play. Children could freely access their choice of play materials.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. The registered provider did not ensure that effective fire evacuation procedures were maintained in line with the service's fire safety policy. This was evidenced by:
 - The policy stated that monthly fire drills would be conducted with school aged children. Staff reiterated to the inspector that they had not conducted a fire drill with school aged children.
 - The children's attendance records for one cabin had not been completed upon the inspector's review of documentation at 14:42 pm, and in conversation with staff, it was reiterated that these attendance records were used to account for the number of children within the service. Additionally, the attendance record showed that a child had been prematurely signed out of the service, whilst still being present. This posed a significant risk to the children in the event of an emergency evacuation. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection on the 21 June 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

1. The registered provider has ensured that a fire drill record has been provided and a record of fire drills beginning from the 13 November 2025 has been created. Monthly fire drills will be conducted without fail.

The registered provider has ensured that children are signed in and out at the times of entry and exit from the service. Staff have been reminded that children are not to be signed out prior to exiting the service.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their preventive and corrective action plan, have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection.