

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021GY060SA
Name of School Age Service:	Wild Roots Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Nicola Gavaghan
Address of School Age Service:	Croi an Bhaile, Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway
Eircode:	H65 Y766

Date(s) of Inspection:	21 May 2025			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	6	PM	7
Registration status:	Registered			
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A			

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
Inspection undertaken by:	K Folan
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:

This service operates a school age service for children aged from 4 to 12 years. The service operates from 8.00am to 9.30am and 12.30pm to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. This service is in a purpose-built building in Carrabane village in county Galway. This service has two playrooms, a kitchen and a dining area. It also has a well-equipped outdoor area which is accessible from the playrooms. Wild Roots Afterschool is also registered as Wild Roots Preschool and offers a full day care service for preschool children.

Staffing:

The service employs four staff to care for school-age children. The registered provider is not rostered to work directly with the children but is available for support if required.

Additional Information:

The inspection was completed 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 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 compliant in relation to the following:

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing Levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service in relation to the drop off and collection policy
- Regulation 12: Insurance

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

- Regulation 7: Notification of Change in Circumstances
- 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 registered provider submitted photographic evidence to address the non-compliances outlined in this report. Regulation 58 (g) in respect of vetting disclosures remains outstanding and will be checked on the next inspection.

Regulation 7: Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a school age service shall, subject to paragraph (2), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the school age service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 6(2) or 6(3) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1) The registered provider had not informed Tusla of a change to the person in charge.
- The registered provider confirmed to the inspector that the person in charge had ceased working in the service and a new person in charge had been appointed.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted evidence that a change in circumstance request had been submitted to Tusla in respect of the named person in charge.

Summary of Findings

This regulation is now compliant.

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

The inspector reviewed the staff file of two staff members who had commenced in the service since the last inspection on 15 October 2024.

(1)(a) Two of the required four references were available from past employers and were validated by the registered provider.

(b) Two of the required four references were available from a reputable source and were validated by the registered provider.

(c) All staff including the registered provider had Garda vetting disclosures available for review. The registered provider did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 58(g) of this report.

(d) Not applicable, as records demonstrated that no staff had lived outside of a state for longer than 6 months over the age of 18.

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)(4)

The registered provider ensured that adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection. In the morning, two school aged and four preschool children were cared for in the junior preschool room during breakfast time. When breakfast finished, one staff escorted six children to the local national school.

At 2:00pm, two staff collected five children from the local national school. At 3:00pm, one staff collected three children from the school. Children were adequately supervised by staff in the care room and outdoor areas.

There was documented evidence of times staff checked in and out of the service. Break times were recorded and available for review.

Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the policies and statements specified in Schedule 6 are in place for the service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The following policy was assessed and contained information to support the staff in their care practices:

- Drop off and collection policy for school age children

The inspector reviewed the above policy and it contained the information required as per Schedule 6 of the regulations to support staff in their practice

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 45 school age children attending the service at any one time.

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 kind and respectful way.
- Staff were observed to comfort children who became upset over minor disagreements by offering a quiet space and one to one support.
- A snack of pancakes, brioche and fruit was served to the children on arrival to the service. Water was available to the children and staff reminded children to take a drink, as weather on the day was warm and sunny.
- Staff demonstrated safe practice at school drop off and collections, with one staff member stopping traffic to allow children to cross the road safely. High visibility vests were worn by the children to and from the local national school.
- A toilet in the sanitary area was designated for school age children, with a mechanism to secure the door in place allowing for privacy.
- Children were offered a choice of participating in planned activities or free play.
- Children's attendance records were brought to and from the local national school and children were signed in to the service in a timely manner.
- Staff demonstrated adherence to the service policy on school drop off and collections when at the school- when two children did not present for collection, staff contacted the parents of the children to confirm the children would not be attending the service, before leaving the school grounds.
- All children were signed in to the correct service attendance records, with the registered provider and staff confirming that the second school age service owned by the registered provider is not currently in use due to a decrease in numbers attending.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

Regulatory Requirement not met
The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years as one Garda vetting disclosure was not renewed within the required dates.
Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider
The registered provider submitted evidence that an application has been submitted to The National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochana in respect of one adult.
Summary of Findings
The vetting disclosure remains outstanding and will be checked on the next inspection.