

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021KE037SA
Name of School Age Service:	Egoli Childcare Solutions Ltd
Name of Registered Provider:	Clare Venter
Address of School Age Service:	Yew Tree Square, Prosperous Road, Clane, Co. Kildare.
Eircode:	W91 KT73

Date of Inspection:	18 June 2024
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 27
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Saint John's Road West, Dublin 8. D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw
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).

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Description of Service:

Egoli Childcare Solution Ltd is a school age service operated by the two directors. It is a purposely built premises in Clane, Co. Kildare. There is a full day care pre-school service in operation on the premises. The school age children share a room which accommodates preschool children in the morning. This care room leads directly to an outdoor area and an outdoor classroom. The school age children also have a dedicated room for the completion of homework.

In addition, the children have access to a grassed area at the front of the building.

The school age service is registered to accommodate up to 48 children from the age of 4 up to 12 years old. On the day of inspection, there were 27 school age children present.

The service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 9am and 1.30pm to 6.30pm. The service offers full day care to children outside of the school term.

Staffing:

Five staff members are employed in the service who work directly with the school age children. The two directors, the service manager and a relief staff member were also available on the day of the inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the children but is available for support if required.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a follow-up inspection of this service. The service was previously inspected on 21 February 2022.

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 cooperation of the children, registered provider, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of the 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)(2)(4): Staffing levels;

- Regulation 12: Insurance;
- Childcare 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

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

The inspector reviewed nine staff files including the registered provider's file. Nine validated written references from past employers and nine from reputable sources were available. Nine Garda vetting disclosures were on file. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Records demonstrated that police vetting was required for one staff member, and this was made available to the inspector.

(2)

Evidence was available to demonstrate that relevant vetting disclosure procedures were carried out prior to any person working directly with the children.

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 appropriate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection. The 27 children attending the service were supervised directly by 5 adults. Discussion with staff members and a review of the staff and children's attendance records from 29 April 2024 to 14 June 2024 demonstrated the minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained during that period.

During the inspection, staff were observed to engage with children. On the inspector's arrival, there were 11 children in the grass area with 1 staff member playing football. At 3.10pm, 27 children were outdoors supervised by five staff.

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 94 to attend the full day care service. On the day of the inspection, 42 children attended the pre-school service, and 27 children attended the school age service.

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:

- A comprehensive induction procedure was introduced since the last inspection. The inspector observed a new staff member participating in the service's induction process. The registered provider described how the new staff member would shadow an experienced team member for the first week of their employment and then meet with management for a review. An induction training list had been completed and signed by both parties.
- A group of 16 children were observed to arrive at the service from school accompanied by 3 staff members. The staff members were observed to have a written list of the children who were to be collected from schools. A staff member verbally described the school collection procedure, and this was reflected in the written collection and drop-off policy of the service. This policy has been reviewed since the last inspection.

- A staff member described how the children have the use of a designated room to complete their homework. This room was not in use on the inspection day as children had not been given homework as it was the last week of the school term.
- The registered provider demonstrated the electronic application the service uses to record the children's day, including activities, arrival and departure times, daily menus and accidents or incidents. They described how the application allows two-way communication between the service and the parents of the children attending the service. In addition, parents can access the service policies and procedures on this platform.
- A list of staff members trained in First Aid working in the building was displayed prominently in the hallway of the service.
- At 3.10pm all the school age children were observed to play in the outdoor area at the front of the building. There were picnic benches where children sat and talked with one another or took part in arts and crafts. A sand activity was set up where a group of five children played together. Children were observed playing on the swings and playing football with the staff members.