

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021OY006SA
Name of School Age Service:	Laugh & Learn Childcare
Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Moylan
Address of School Age Service:	Shinrone NS, Roscrea Rd, Shinrone, Birr, Co. Offaly.
Eircode:	R42XE30

Date of Inspection:	3 September 2024		
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM		PM 11
Registration status:	Registered		
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
Title:	Early years inspector

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

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:

Laugh & Learn Childcare is located in a primary school in the rural South Offaly village of Shinrone. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 15 years. The service is operational for a breakfast club between 7.30 and 9.10am and after school hours between 2.00 and 6.00pm. The service is also operational during school holidays. The service has the use of two adjoining playrooms and a kitchen area. Sanitary accommodation is available for the children off the playroom and for staff in the hallway. The service has access to both the school yard and play area at the front of the building and a pitch at the back of the school building for outdoor play.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by two adults which includes the person in charge of the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

Additional Information:

The inspector conducted a planned focused 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, person in charge, 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 relation to:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c)(d): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;

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)

A validated reference from a past employer and a validated reference from a reputable source was held on file in respect of one staff member. Two validated references from past employers were held on file in respect of the second staff member in the service. A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of both staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Curricula Vitae for staff confirmed that Police clearance was not required as neither staff member had lived outside of the state for more than six consecutive months as adults.

(2)

Records confirmed that all vetting procedures were conducted prior to appointment of both staff members to work 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)

Three children were both signed in and present in the service with one staff member on arrival of the inspector at 2.30pm. Two staff members cared for eleven children in the service after 3.00pm. All children were signed in on arrival from the classrooms in the school at 3.00pm by a staff member.

The attendance record advised of the times children were both signed in and out of the service on the 2 September 2024 and first day back to the service after the school holidays. The person in charge confirmed that the sign in and out record was taken to the outdoor play area by a staff member daily to record the collection of children directly from outdoors. The attendance record for the 2 September 2024 confirmed that a maximum of ten children were present in the service on that date when the two staff members were present.

The staff roster confirmed the presence of one staff member with 3 children between 2.00 and 3.00pm and 2 staff members present with 10 children after 3.00pm on the 2 September 2024. The roster also indicated the hours both staff work daily in the service.

(4)

The staff in the service were observed to supervise the children both in the playroom for games and snack time and in the outdoor play area at the front of the school building.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 24 children in daily attendance in a school age service. Insurance cover was valid from the 28 March 2024 to the 27 March 2025.