

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021TY030SA
Name of School Age Service:	Little Einstein's Preschool and Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Bolger
Address of School Age Service:	Old Convent School, Convent Hill, Roscrea, Tipperary.
Eircode:	E53 K063

Date of Inspection:	13 November 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 39
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick, V35 XT5F.
Inspection undertaken by:	S O'Brien & J Dennehy
Title:	Early Years Inspector & Inspection Registration Manager

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:

Little Einstein's Preschool and Afterschool is a school age service operating from a former convent. The service is located on the ground floor of the premises. The service caters for children from 4 to 12 years. The service operates from 7.00am to 9.20am and 1.30pm to 6.00pm during term time and 7.00am to 6.00pm during non-term time. The services facilitates transport to local primary schools. The service consists of two care rooms for school age children. The service is also registered as an early years service on the same premises This is one of four services operated by the registered provider.

Staffing:

There are currently 13 adults attached to the service, 6 of whom work directly with school age children. The registered provider works between all of the services but is available in the service as required.

Additional Information:

This inspection was carried out as a result of information received by the inspectorate.

There was an Immediate Action Notice issued on the 13 November 2025 for Garda vetting as one adult that had access to the children did not have a Garda vetting disclosure available for review. The registered provider submitted a response on the 14 November 2025 outlining how the risk was mitigated, which was accepted by the inspector. A copy of the Garda vetting disclosure was forwarded on the 17 November 2025. Further information is available under Regulation 8.

There was an Immediate Action Notice issued on the 13 November 2025 in relation to a safety issue, unsecured blind cords. The issue was resolved by staff present on the day of inspection. Further information is available

under Regulation 58G.

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 inspectors wish 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 9: Staffing levels
- Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service
- Regulation 12: Insurance
- Regulation 13: Complaints

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures
- Child Care Act 1992, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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 Síochana 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) Following a review of previous information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that two new staff members required their staff files to be reviewed. Garda vetting renewal had to be checked in relation to one staff member.
- (a) One reference was available from a past employer and was validated.
- (b) One reference was available from a source other than a past employer and was validated
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 12 of the 13 adults. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was not required for the two staff members as they had not lived outside of a state for longer than six consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- (1)(a)&(b) Two written and validated references were not available in respect of one staff member.
- (c) There was no Garda vetting disclosure available in respect of one adult who worked directly with the school age children. This posed a possible safety risk to the children as the relevant checks had not been carried out prior to the adult being appointed to care for the

children.

An Immediate Action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 13 November 2025. The registered provider submitted a response on the 14 November 2025 outlining how the risk was mitigated, which was accepted by the inspector. A copy of the Garda vetting disclosure was forwarded on the 17 November 2025.

(2) The registered provider did not ensure that the procedures specified in paragraph 1 had been fully carried out prior to one adult being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with the school age children attending the service. This posed a possible safety risk to the children as the registered provider did not adequately complete the required checks to ensure the suitability of the staff in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

(1)

(a) & (b) Two written and validated references were submitted to the inspectorate.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate.

(2) CV's, written references and valid Garda vetting is now up to date.

Preventive Action

(1)

(a) & (b) The service will ensure that all staff members will have the appropriate documents on file before commencing employment.

(c) Garda vetting will be available and in date for all staff in the service.

(2) All staff members will have the required documentation onsite before starting work with the children.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted for review to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.

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) The registered provider ensured that there were adequate adults to care for the children during the inspection.
- (2) On the day of inspection, the adult child ratios were above the required 12 children to 1 adult ratio. The adult child ratios were as follows:
- In the Junior room there were 19 children being cared for by 2 adults.
- In the Senior room there were 20 children being cared for by 3 adults
- The manager was available to provide additional support if required.
- (4) It was observed that the adults supervised the children at all times during the inspection. The adults were observed chatting and playing with the children. The children were observed by sight and sound.

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

On the day of inspection, the following policies were reviewed:

- Complaints policy
- Infection control policy
- Managing behaviour policy
- Drop off and collection policy
- Statement of purpose and function

The inspector reviewed the policies and they were observed to contain the information required as per Regulation 10 and Schedule 6 of the regulations.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured the school age service was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 28 March 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026.

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.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall—
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.
- (4) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that the parents or guardians of children attending the service are aware of the service's complaints policy.

Regulatory Requirement Met

- (1) The registered provider ensured the complaints policy of the service:
- (a) Outlined the procedure to follow by a person when making a complaint in relation to the service.
 - (b) Outlined the manner in which the complaint is dealt with.
 - (c) Outlined the procedures for keeping the complainant informed on how the complaint will be dealt with.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A record in writing was kept of complaints made in respect of the service.
 - (b) The complaint was dealt with in accordance with the services complaints policy.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) The record in writing included the nature of the complaint and the manner in which it was dealt with.
 - (b) The record in writing was available to the inspector to review.

(4) The registered provider ensured that parents and guardians were aware of the services complaints policy through ongoing discussions with parents. Parents were aware that they could request a copy of any policy from the office if required.

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

- The adults were observed interacting with the children in a respectful and playful manner.
- Through discussions, staff indicated that they were aware of their mandated-person duties and knew who the designated liaison person for the service was.
- The service had a record of incidents and accidents that occurred within the service. Records were reviewed from the beginning of 2025 and deemed to contain the required information.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. Blind cords were observed unsecured in the sanitary area and were accessible to the children. This posed a risk of strangulation to the school age children. An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on 13 November 2025. The registered provider submitted a response on 14 November 2025 and was deemed adequate. When this was brought to the attention of the manager, the blind cords were taken out of reach to the children.
2. On review of the attendance books in the Junior room, it was observed that one child had not been checked in when they arrived at the service. This posed a risk to the child in the service in the event of an emergency occurring or a child being unaccounted for. It is acknowledged, when this was brought to the attention of the manager the child was checked in on the attendance book.

3. Areas of the sanitary area was observed to require maintenance and repair. The following was observed in the area:

- There was exposed timber around the hand basin in the sanitary area. There was a gap observed between the timber unit and the hand basin. This posed a risk of cross infection as the area could not be cleaned affectively.
- There was a hole in the wall beside the hand basin.
- The lid of the cistern for the toilet did not fit correctly and was not secured to the cistern effectively.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

1. The blind cords have been moved and out of reach to the children.
2. The child's details were entered immediately when the manager was informed.
3. The following repairs were carried out:
 - The area around the sink was changed to ensure that there are no gaps between the area and the sink.
 - The hole in the wall was filled, sanded and painted.
 - The cistern has been replaced.

Preventive Action

1. A risk assessment will be carried out on a regular basis to ensure there are no safety concerns.
2. Staff will ensure that this does not happen again, and proper head counts will be carried out when children arrive to the service.
3. All sanitary areas will be well maintained going forward to ensure no recurrence.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was submitted for review to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements.