

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022TY005SA
Name of School Age Service:	Hi-5 Afterschool Club
Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa O’Gorman
Address of School Age Service:	Kilruane National School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Eircode:	E45 PN25

Date of Inspection:	7 October 2024			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	Not applicable	PM	27
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

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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:

Hi-5 Afterschool Club is a school age service located in a rural primary school between the towns of Cloughjordan and Nenagh in Tipperary. The service provides care for children in the age range 4 to 12 years between the hours of 2.00 and 5.30pm. A breakfast club is provided between the hours of 8.00 and 9.10am. The service is operational during school terms.

The service is located in a hall in a primary school building. Kitchen facilities are provided in the hall to prepare and serve snacks for children. Sanitary accommodation is available outside of the room for both children and staff. Enclosed outdoor areas comprising of a pitch, an all-weather surface, and a basketball court are available to the children after school hours for outdoor play.

Staffing:

The service is staffed by six adults which includes the registered provider.

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:

- 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.

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Acknowledgements:

The inspector wishes 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 relation to:

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

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

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(2): Vetting disclosures;

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The non-compliances identified on inspection have been adequately addressed by the service and there are no follow-up actions required.

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)(c)(d)

A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of the registered provider and the five staff members working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Curricula Vitae confirmed that none of the staff members had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months and required Police vetting.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)(a)(b)

A Second validated reference was not available in respect of four staff members working in the service. It was acknowledged that two validated references from past employers were

available in respect of the remaining staff member.

(2)

The registered provider had appointed four staff prior to considering a second reference for each staff member. This could pose a risk to the children in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(a)(b)

A second reference was both secured and validated with respect of four staff members working in the service and submitted to the inspectorate.

(2)

The registered provider advised in the corrective and preventive (CAPA) response to the inspectorate that all references will be both secured and considered prior to the appointment of any new staff members to work in the service.

Summary of Findings

The inspector reviewed the actions and evidence that the registered provider submitted. The non-compliances found on inspection have been adequately addressed.

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)

Four staff members cared for a total of 9 children on arrival of the inspector to the room at 2.35pm. The four staff members cared for a total of 27 children after 3.10pm in the service and the arrival of the senior classes from the school classrooms. A review of the attendance records of children for the day of inspection confirmed that all children were signed in on arrival and out on collection from the service. A review of the records of attendance at the breakfast club for the week beginning 16 September 2024 confirmed that a maximum of 19 children were in attendance on the 20 September 2024. A review of the staff roster for the week confirmed that two staff members were in attendance for the breakfast club hours daily. A review of the children's attendance records for the week beginning 2 September 2024 confirmed that a maximum of 40 children were in attendance during the week. Four staff members were rostered as in attendance daily.

(4)

Room dividers were observed to be in use on the day of inspection to divide children into separate areas for homework and play activities. Staff were observed to sit at tables in each area. Children were observed to be supervised by staff during homework, art activities, playing card games and with construction toys.

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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 had insurance cover for a maximum of 45 children in daily attendance in a school age service. Insurance was valid from the 26 August 2024 to the 27 March 2025.