

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DL003SA
Name of School Age Service:	Small World Childcare Afterschool
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Louise Gately
Address of School Age Service:	Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala, Upper Main Street, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
Eircode:	F94 H792

Date of Inspection:	25/05/2026			
Number of school age children present during inspection:	AM	NA	PM	32

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
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).

Description of Service:	Smallworld Childcare Afterschool is a privately owned standalone school age service located in Donegal town, Co. Donegal. The service is registered
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to provide school age care to children aged 4 to 12 years. The service opens from 08:00 to 09:10 and 13:50 to 18:00 during the school term. Outside of term time, the service opens from 09:00 to 18:00. The service operates out of two rooms in Scoil Aodh Rua and Nuala. One room in Scoil Nuala accommodates the younger school age children and one room in Scoil Rua accommodates the older school age children. Outdoors, there are three play areas available to the children, including a purpose-built playground and sports court. Sanitary accommodation for children and adults is available onsite.

Staffing:

There are six adults employed in the service, including the registered provider. Four adults work in the service directly with the children, the registered provider is available to provide support and oversight. One adult is available to cover staff absences. On the day of inspection, five adults were present.

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 9(2): Staffing levels
- Regulation 11: Premises
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspector reviewed the registered providers response, documented and photographic evidence that was submitted. The non- compliance found on inspection have been adequately addressed.

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

On the day of inspection, six staff files were reviewed, and the following information was available:

- (1)(a) Nine written and validated references were available from past employers.
- (1)(b) Two written and validated references were available from reputable sources.
- (1)(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (1)(d) International police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)(a)(b)

One reference on file for one adult was from a source not listed on the employment record.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The reference has now been added to the correct employment record. In future I will ensure all references are listed on the CV.

Summary of Findings

The documented and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed and has met the regulatory requirements.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

(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.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The registered provider ensured that adequate staffing levels were maintained during the inspection.

(2)

On the afternoon of the inspection:

At 14:00, in Scoil Nuala, four adults cared for 19 children aged 5 to 7 years of age.

At 14:56 in Scoil Rua, one adult cared for eight children aged 9 to 11 years of age.

At 15:06 in Scoil Nuala, two adults cared for 24 children aged 5 to 9 years of age.

Regulation 11: Premises

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that-

- (a) an outdoor space to which the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or*
- (b) where no such space is provided, the school age children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor space.*

Regulatory Requirement Met

(a) Three large outdoor areas were available to the children. On the day of inspection, all children had access to the outdoor areas.

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

There was one adult trained in first aid available to the children during the period of inspection.