

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>              | TU2024OY001SA                                                         |
| <b>Name of School Age Service:</b>    | Laugh & Learn Childcare                                               |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>   | Lisa Moylan                                                           |
| <b>Address of School Age Service:</b> | Coolderry Central National School,<br>Brosna,<br>Birr,<br>Co. Offaly. |
| <b>Eircode:</b>                       | R42 ER23                                                              |

|                                                                 |                 |                |    |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----|---|
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>                                      | 21 October 2024 |                |    |   |
| <b>Number of school age children present during inspection:</b> | AM              | Not applicable | PM | 6 |
| <b>Registration status:</b>                                     | Registered      |                |    |   |
| <b>Conditions (if applicable):</b>                              | Not applicable  |                |    |   |

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|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate</b> | Early Years Inspectorate<br>Primary Care Centre<br>Church Avenue<br>Tullamore<br>Co Offaly |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>               | A Spain                                                                                    |
| <b>Title:</b>                                  | Early years inspector                                                                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Authority to Inspect</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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). |

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## School Age Services

### Description of Service:

Laugh and Learn Childcare is a school age service located in a rural primary school in south Offaly. The service is operational between the hours of 2.00 and 6.00pm. A breakfast club is also in operation between the hours of 7.30 and 9.10am for children in attendance in the school. The service cares for children in the age range 4 to 15 years. Rooms in use include a school age room for the dedicated use of the service, a sensory room and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff in the adjoining hallway. Access to the service is secured with a keypad. Children have access to a tarmac area at both the front and back of the school, an all weather enclosed play area, a picnic area and a pitch on the school grounds

### Staffing:

The service is staffed by 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:

- 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 and registered provider 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;

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

- Regulation 9(3): Staffing levels;

## Conclusion and follow up actions:

The inspector reviewed the actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider. The non-compliance found on inspection has been 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

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

The staff member had two references on file secured from a past employer. A Garda vetting disclosure was held on file in respect of the staff member 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. The employment history for the staff member demonstrated that Police clearance was not required.

(2)

Records confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to the opening of the service and staff contact with children cared for 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.*
- (3) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service singlehandedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance in operating the service to the person in charge is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge or the registered provider of the childminding service in the event of an emergency.*
- (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)

There were six children present, with one staff member on the day of inspection. The adult child ratio was maintained at all times during the inspection. A review of both the children's attendance records and the staff roster for the week of the 30 September 2024 confirmed that a maximum of 12 children were in attendance on the 2 October 2024 with 1 staff member. A review of the staff roster and children's attendance records for the same week for the breakfast club confirmed that the maximum number of children in attendance was 9 children on the 1 October 2024 with 1 staff member.

(4)

The staff member demonstrated awareness of the responsibility with regard to the supervision of the children. The staff member was observed to be in the presence of the children at all times and engaged well with them during homework time and as the children enjoyed artwork and playing with games. The staff member was also observed to remain with the children when playing in the schoolyard outside of the service.

## Regulatory Requirement not met

(3)

An emergency contact person who was familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance in the operation of the service to the person in charge was not available. This posed a risk to the children, for example in the event of a medical emergency.

## Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(3)

The registered provider advised in the CAPA response to the inspection report that a second person commenced working directly in the service on the 14 November 2024. All of the necessary vetting requirements and documentation required under Regulation 8 were included with the CAPA response. The registered provider advised as a preventative measure, that the employment of a second staff member will ensure that an emergency contact person is available to the service at all times when children are present.

## Summary of Findings

The registered provider provided actions to correct and prevent the reoccurrence of the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9:Staffing levels.

## 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 22 children in daily attendance in a school age service. Insurance was valid from the 4 June 2024 to the 27 March 2025.