

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025TY009SA
Name of School Age Service:	New Moon Kids Club
Name of Registered Provider:	Linda McGrath
Address of School Age Service:	Mullinahone Community Centre, Carrick Road, Mullinahone, Tipperary.
Eircode:	E41 V6P3

Date of Inspection:	19 November 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 18
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	Linda McGrath is the registered provider. The service will register for no more than 36 children.

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

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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:

New Moon Kids Club was established in August 2025 in the rural area of Mullinahone, Tipperary. The service caters for children aged 4 to 15 years. The service operates from 7:45 to 17:15 daily and facilitates transport by foot mainly to the local primary school. The service is registered to cater for 36 children. The service operates from a community hall which consists of one large room, dining area, sanitary accommodation and a designated outdoor space. When the service is not in operation the space is used by different community groups.

Staffing:

There are three adults attached to the service. This includes the registered provider and the person in charge.

Additional Information:

An Immediate Action Notice issued on the 19 November 2025 in relation to a safety issue. The premises was not secured to prevent the unsupervised exit of a child or prevent unauthorised access. The service submitted a response on the 20 November 2025, and this was deemed adequate to address the safety risk. Further information is demonstrated under Regulation 58G.

An additional Immediate Action Notice was issued on the 21 November 2025 in relation to a safety issue. An adult trained in first aid was not available to the children at all times during operation. This posed a risk to the children should a medical emergency occur. On 24 November 2025, the service submitted a response, and this was deemed adequate to address the risk. Further information is demonstrated 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

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

- Regulation 7: Notification of Change of Circumstance
- 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 submitted to the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

Regulation 7: Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a school age service shall, subject to paragraph (2), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the school age service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 6(2) or 6(3) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1) The attendance records of the children were reviewed, and the following change had not been notified to the agency 60 days before the changes took place: The school age service

was first registered to operate from 8:00 to 17:30, Monday to Friday. On review of the attendance records, it indicated that children were arriving from 7:30 onwards since the service registered and became operational in August 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

A change in circumstances application was submitted on 20 November 2025 outlining the accurate hours of operation. This application was approved on 21 November 2025. Staff have been informed that no child may be admitted to the service prior to the hours of operation unless approved by the inspectorate. The service has also developed a policy in relation to change in circumstance.

Preventive Action

A formal internal process has been implemented requiring the provider to notify the agency prior to any operational changes. A monthly compliance review will be conducted to ensure all aspects of registration meet compliance. Staff induction has been updated to include mandatory awareness of registration requirements.

Summary of Findings

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) There were three adults employed in the service including the registered provider. All three staff files were reviewed at inspection.
- (a) Of the six required references, three references were available from a past employer and were validated.
- (b) Of the six required references one reference was available from a source other than a past employer and was validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three adults. The service was aware of 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 determined not to be required for one adult who had lived outside of the 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.
- (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)

One written and validated reference from a past employer was submitted to the inspectorate.

One written and validated reference from a reputable source was submitted to the inspectorate.

(2)

All relevant checks were confirmed and filed. A pre-employment checklist has been implemented to ensure no staff are appointed, assigned or allowed contact with the children without the relevant checks being carried out.

Preventive Action

(1)(a) & (b)

A recruitment and vetting checklist have been implemented, and no staff will work with the children until all steps are complete and verified. The service has also revised their policy on recruitment, vetting and staff files.

(2)

Staff responsible for recruitment have received refresher training on Regulation 8 requirements.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by 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. Review of attendance records indicated that adequate ratios were maintained during operational times.
- (2) On the day of inspection, the adult child ratios were adhered to. There were 18 children being cared for by 2 adults on the day of inspection. The registered provider was also available to assist as required on the day of inspection.
- (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:

- Managing behaviour policy
- Drop off and collection policy
- Fire safety policy

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 05 May 2025 and expired on 27 March 2026.

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. The children were observed to interact well with staff members and were confident to approach staff members to make requests if required. For example, one child requested to stay inside when other children went outside, and this was facilitated. This was also observed on the school collection where the staff member was seen chatting to the children and asking how their day was in school.
- Children were given choices while attending the service such as what they wanted for snack, what activities they chose to engage in or whether they wanted to complete their homework or not. The daily routine was displayed for the children, so they were aware of what was coming next. The inspectors observed the routine being followed on the day of inspection.

Regulatory Requirement not met

1. The premises was not secured to prevent the unsupervised exit of a child or prevent unauthorised access to the service. The front door of the service was unsecured which was easily accessible from the main hall where the children were located. The outdoor

area used by the children was not secured as the fencing did not enclose the entire play area. This posed a safety risk to the children as they could easily exit the service. An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the 19 November 2025 to the registered provider. The service submitted a response on the 20 November 2025, and this was deemed adequate to address the safety risk.

2. An adult trained in first aid was not available to the children at all times during operation. This posed a risk to the children should a medical emergency occur. An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the 21 November 2025 in relation to this safety issue. A response was received from the service on the 24 November 2025 which demonstrated that all three staff members had undertaken a first aid course. This was deemed adequate to address the risk.
3. While observing the 3.00pm school collection from the local national school the following was noted:
 - It was observed that a child stepped onto the road in front of an oncoming car without the permission of the staff member caring for the children.
 - The children and staff were observed crossing the road several times and did not wear hi visibility jackets. The risk assessment completed by the service outlined that hi visibility jackets would be worn on dark morning and evenings. This was not observed on inspection.
 - The staff member collected 11 children and while walking to the service, 2 children turned a corner and were out of sight of the staff member who was located at the back of the group. The staff member could not adequately supervise the children that were out of sight.

This posed a safety risk to the children while walking to the service.

4. At 4.25pm, the inspector observed that no child had been checked in on arrival to the service from the school collections or when departing at collection time. The staff outlined that this attendance book would be used in the event of an emergency occurring. This posed a risk to the children in the event of a child being unaccounted for if an emergency occurred in the service.
5. An up-to-date servicing record for the smoke alarm and fire extinguishers was not

available for review. This posed a safety risk that the equipment may not function as required in the event of a fire.

6. The boiler unit for the community hall was located in the boys sanitary accommodation. Children could access the unit which could cause injury to a child.
7. There was a mop and bucket filled with used water located in the boys sanitary accommodation. Used cleaning items should not be accessible to the children as it poses a risk of cross infection.
8. Single use hand towels were not available for children to dry their hands after using the toilet. Children using the same towel to facilitate hand washing poses a risk of cross infection.
9. The outdoor area had used commercial kitchen equipment stored accessible to the children. This equipment is unsuitable for an outdoor space used by the children as it poses a safety risk to the children.
10. Cleaning products were easily accessible to the children in cabinets in the dining room area. This posed a safety risk to the children.
11. Cables were easily accessible to the children in the dining room. This posed a risk of strangulation to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

Corrective Action

1. The premises is now secured to prevent unsupervised exit of children and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. The front door to the service is now secured at all times during the operation of the service. The outdoor play area has been fully secured with fencing.
2. All three staff members completed a first aid course by 24 November 2025. Rosters have been amended to ensure that at least one first aid trained staff member is present on site at all times while the service is in operation, including collection times and outdoor activities.
3. A full review of the school collection routine was carried out. The risks identified regarding road crossing, visibility and supervision was addressed.
 - All staff and children will wear hi visibility jackets. A full set of jackets have been

purchased and are available.

- A minimum of two staff members will now complete every school collection when the group exceeds ten children. Staff are positioned at the front and back of the group. Road safety rules are reinforced daily during collections.
- Children will not turn corners or move ahead of staff. Group size limits have been introduced for single staff collections where necessary to ensure adequate sight and supervision is maintained.

4. Attendance is now recorded as soon as children enter the building following school collections. Each child is checked in at the door to the service. Children are now signed out at the point of departure by staff. The attendance record is now kept up to date ensuring it can accurately be used in the event of an emergency. A policy on attendance, headcount and record keeping was submitted.

5. Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers were checked to ensure they were in working order and up to date servicing records have been obtained. A scheduled maintenance plan has been put in place to ensure regular servicing.

6. Temporary safety controls are in place including staff supervision and access control to ensure that no child can come in contact with the boiler. Work is scheduled to be carried out on this area over the Christmas period.

7. The mop, buckets and used water has been removed from the area. Cleaning equipment and used water are now stored in a locked area out of reach to the children. Buckets are emptied immediately after use.

8. Single use paper towels are now available to the children in the sanitary areas. A designated staff member is responsible for restocking towels and emptying bins. Infection control policy has been updated to state that reusable towels are not permitted.

9. All used commercial kitchen equipment have been removed from the outdoor area. Photographic evidence was submitted of the area. The outdoor area will be checked thoroughly to ensure no other unsafe items are present.

10. Cleaning products have been removed from the area and are now stored in a locked box under the kitchen cabinet.

11. All accessible cables in the dining room have been removed and are out of reach to the children. Remaining necessary cables remain and are secured with cable covers, clips, or

conduits.

Preventive Action

1. The necessary measures have been implemented to prevent any recurrence of this issue in the future.
2. First aid certification will be monitored and renewed before the expiry date using a staff training tracker.
3. A risk assessment has been carried out on the collections. Staff have received refresher training with focus on road safety. Parent have been informed of the updated safety measures.
4. A new arrival and departure discussion took place at a staff meeting and is now in place outlining real time recording procedures. A second staff member will cross check the attendance daily.
5. Staff have been instructed to verify equipment and records monthly.
6. A risk assessment has been carried out on the area. Staff have been briefed on reporting hazards to management to prevent recurrence.
7. A new cleaning equipment storage policy has been developed. Staff have been given guidance on infection control.
8. Regular hygiene audits will be carried out.
9. The outdoor area is now checked daily by the staff to ensure no unsafe items are present. Staff have been briefed on the inspections to be carried out on the area. A risk assessment has also been developed and carried out.
10. A daily safety check of all storage areas is now included in staff routines. A cleaning equipment risk assessment has been carried out.
11. Staff will conduct daily checks to ensure cables remain secured and are out of reach to the children.

Summary of Findings

The registered providers response and documented evidence was reviewed by the inspectorate and has met the regulatory requirements. This will be reviewed on next inspection.