

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023DR003SA
Name of School Age Service:	Sherpa Kids Rathfarnham Educate Together NS
Name of Registered Provider:	John Miles
Address of School Age Service:	Loretto Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.
Eircode:	D14 V5W4

Date of Inspection:	2 December 2024
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 25
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Saint John's Road West, Dublin 8. D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw R. Duff
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).

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Description of Service:

Sherpa Kids Rathfarnham Educate Together NS is one of 73 school age services registered to the provider. This service is based in a national school in Dublin 14. The service has the use of two rooms once the school day is over. The children are cared for in each room depending on their age.

The service is registered to operate from 7.50am to 8.50am and 1.30pm to 6pm during the school term and from 9am to 5pm outside of this.

The service offers care to children from 4 to 12 years of age.

The children have access to the school's outdoor area after school hours. This space includes a yard, an all-weather surface area, and the 'secret forest'.

Staffing:

There are a total of five staff members employed to care for the children and the area manager is available to provide support if required.

The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

Additional Information:

The inspectors 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, area manager, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

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

- Regulation 8: Vetting Disclosures;
- Regulation 9: Staffing levels;
- Regulation 12: Insurance.

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)
- The inspector reviewed six staff files. Two validated references were available for each staff member. Garda vetting was available for six staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring Garda vetting to be completed every three years. Documents reviewed on the day demonstrated that police vetting was required for six staff. These police vetting records were on file.
- (2)
- Documents reviewed on the day demonstrated that vetting procedures were carried out before staff were employed.

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

On the day of the inspection the registered provider ensured the appropriate staffing levels were in place. Twenty-five children were supervised by three staff members. The area manager arrived during the inspection and was available to offer support if required. A review of the children and staff's attendance records indicated that the ratio of 1 adult to 12 children was maintained from 4 November 2024 to 30 November 2024.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service had insurance cover in place for a maximum of 36 children at any one time. The insurance was valid from 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.