

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015CN023

Name of Service: Happy Days Childcare Services Ltd

Address of Service: 17 Fairgreen, Belturbet, Co. Cavan. H14 DH56

Email Address: happydaysccs@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: David Coyle

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in number of children from 70 to 90 children (using additional room on first floor)
Addition of a session in this additional room.

Proposed Number of Children: 90

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children from 70 to 90 children (using additional room on first floor)
Addition of a session in this additional room.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 70 to 90 children

Date of Inspection: 2 9 1 0 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: S Mc Kenna

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 90 Children
Date of Registration	22nd December 2025

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Happy Days Childcare Services Ltd is a community-based childcare facility located in a housing estate in Belturbet, Co. Cavan. The childcare service operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and provides full day care, part time and a sessional service to children aged 1 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	There are four existing and 1 new care room. Within the main building, Pre 1 and Pre 2 are on the ground floor, Pre 3, and the proposed new room Pre 4 are on the first floor. The Toddler room is in a prefabricated building to the rear of the main building. School aged childcare is also provided. An outdoor play area is available, which includes three separate areas to the rear, side, and front of the premises. Car parking for set down and collection is provided at the front of the premises.
Staffing	There are 25 staff in total employed in the service, two of whom are employed on a community employment scheme (one childcare, one kitchen assistant), a manager, a deputy manager and an admin person who are office-based, one cook, fourteen staff are employed to care for preschool children and five staff who work with the school aged children.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge who is the service manager, and a named person to deputise in their absence.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

A staff roster was provided.

It is proposed that a total of 14 adults will work across the 5 preschool rooms.

The registered provider and person in charge are aware of the requirements of this regulation in relation to adult:child ratios.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) There are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

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- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or
(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

Requirement met:

The requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities have been provided for the children to play indoors during the day. A range of play materials, play equipment and toys, along with well-resourced designated interest areas, are available in each of the 5 preschool rooms.

(b) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for the children to rest and sleep. An area used as a sensory room is set up for children aged 2 years upwards to sleep. Stackable beds and individual bed linen are used for each child. The service does not currently cater for children aged under 2 years.

There are cosy areas in each of the 5 preschool rooms to include a variety of soft mats, sponge mats, child-sized sofas and cushions.

(3)(a) There is a total of 3 outdoor play areas provided, located at the rear side and front of the premises, which are secured by fencing, walls and secured gates. Ground surfacing of concrete, artificial grass and soft fall ground surfacing was in place. Ride-on and push-a-long toys, rockers, seating, a mud kitchen, a slide and a whiteboard, and a water table are some of the materials available for use within the outdoor areas.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink are available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service provides all breakfast, snacks and meals to the children in attendance. The service cook prepares and cooks all snacks and hot meals on a daily basis. The children have access to potable drinking water. A fridge is available in the kitchen and in each of the care rooms for the storage of perishable food items.

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A four-week menu was available for review, which demonstrated a variety of hot meal options that were adequate, suitable and nutritious for children.

Additional snack items should a child become hungry outside of meal times is available.

Children who have dietary requirements have these met, through menu adjustments by the service cook.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - *Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child*

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- The front entrance gate and door into the service is secured by an intercom system, where parents ring the relevant care rooms, and the door is then released by staff from the care rooms. This prevents children from exiting the service unsupervised and restricts unauthorised access.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Windows on the first floor have been fitted with restricting devices.
- Blinds were fitted and had cords secured.
- The staircase & handrails were presented in good condition.
- There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste, including the provision of suitable nappy bins and foot pedal-operated bins throughout the service.
- Individual single-use paper towels were provided for handwashing purposes.
- Cleaning schedules were available for the service.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.
- Risk assessment records are in place.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there are three adults with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates rostered to work in the service.

(2) (a) (b) Adequately stocked first aid boxes are provided in each of the care rooms, with additional supplies provided in the office, and are available to the children at all times.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The registered provider demonstrated that a template to record fire drills is available, and fire drills are conducted monthly, with the most recent recorded fire drill recorded on 23 September 2025.

(b) There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment was carried out in March 2025, and the fire detection and alarm system was carried out in August 2025.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed throughout the service.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
Insurance is in place for up to 90 preschool children in attendance on a Full Day Care basis and expires on 27 March 2026.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The person in charge confirmed that she had no knowledge of any structural defects.

(b) The service is adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

(c) The service is adequately lit and heated. The lighting is provided by a mixture of natural light from windows, which are supplemented with fluorescent ceiling lights which were fitted with protective covers. The care rooms were maintained at a temperature of 20 - 22.5°C.

The care rooms are ventilated by openable windows.

Sanitary areas are ventilated mainly by openable windows, and one toilet was ventilated by mechanical ventilation.

(d) Cleaning schedules were available and completed up to date. The premises are maintained in a clean condition.

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	(e) The children’s sanitary facilities in the service were equipped with a total of 11 toilets and 10 wash hand basins, and 2 nappy changing units with wash hand basins. Thermostatically controlled hot (to a maximum of 37.9°C), and cold running water is available in all of the hand washing sinks. There are 2 toilets available for the staff.
Requirement not met:	(e) On the first floor, the sanitary area between Pre 3 room and the proposed new room Pre 4 has a total of 3 toilets, 1 nappy changing unit and 2 wash hand sinks. A wash hand basin is required for each toilet per 11 children, and each nappy changing unit per 11 children.
Response from Provider:	New sink installed in the bathroom area.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has now adequately addressed the regulatory requirement in Regulation 29 (e).

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
 - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of 90 children within the 5 preschool care rooms. The following floor space is available.
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- The Toddler room is 37m².
- The Pre 1 room is 38.76m².
- The Pre 2 room is 50.497m².
- The Pre 3 room is 36.645m².
- The Pre 4 room is 37.921m².