

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY091
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Happyways Artane Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Artane Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Road, Artane, Dublin 5
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D05 W603
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Miriam Caffrey
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/04/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Jameson
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla 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).

### Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

Happyways Artane Beaumont is a privately operated service which offers care and education to children aged 2-6 years on a part-time basis from 8:00am to 1:00pm, Monday to Friday. The service participates in the ECCE scheme. The service operates from two rooms in Artane Beaumont Community Centre; room one is located on the ground floor and room two is located on the first floor. The care room on the ground floor is not currently in use. Sanitary accommodation is available in the hallway outside of each care room. An enclosed outdoor area is provided to the side of the building.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The registered provider employs four adults to work in the service, including the service manager, a deputy person in charge, an early year's practitioner and a relief staff member. On the day of inspection, the deputy person in charge and an early year's practitioner were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. The service manager arrived shortly after and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation

- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the 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 rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance 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 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.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### 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,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) A registered provider 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
  - (b) The deputy person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
  - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) A conversation with management showed that the registered provider currently employs four adults to work with the children. The full staff files of three adults employed to work in the service and the service manager were reviewed.

- (a) There were three written and validated references available from past employers.
  - (b) There were five written and validated references available from a source other than a previous employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
  - (d) There was no evidence to suggest that any of the staff members had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or longer, after the age of eighteen.
- (4) Three staff members who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) Conversation with staff members showed that the designated person in charge or the deputy person in charge were not on the premises at all times on the day of the inspection; from 12:30pm to 1:00pm, neither were rostered to be present. This posed a potential risk to the children.
- (4) Documentation was not available to demonstrate that one adult who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. This posed a potential risk to the children.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (b) Management will ensure that the designated person in charge or the deputy person in charge is present on the premises at all times during operating hours. Management have updated their policy so as to reflect that all educators holding a minimum level 6 qualification are now deputy to the person in charge. Management will conduct training in relation to this and carry out regular checks to confirm the presence of the person in charge or deputy person in charge during operating hours.

- (4) The staff member in question has begun the process to obtain a replacement qualification certificate. Management will ensure that all staff files are updated with the required qualification documentation. A revision of the recruitment policy will be carried out and updated to include mandatory verification of qualifications prior to commencement. Management will conduct regular audits of staff files to ensure all required documentation is present.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9(1)(b). The registered provider has attempted to address the non-compliance under 9(4) however this will remain outstanding and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### **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.*

### **Compliance Information**

- (1) There were a sufficient number of staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection. There were two staff members working with five children in the morning.
- (2) The adult child ratios were maintained for the duration of the inspection.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b) The following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:

- The children were supported to follow their own interests, explore their environment and given freedom of choice, while being offered support during activities and transitions. Decision making was encouraged by staff members who were observed to actively supervise and guide the children throughout the day.
- Staff members were observed to use positive and respectful language on the day of inspection, acknowledging the children's achievements with praise and recognition.
- On the day of inspection, the children had access to a range of sensory activities. They played with water, sand and modelling dough. The children were involved in making the modelling dough, which encourages turn taking, patience and independence.
- Snack time was observed to be a sociable event, with staff members sitting alongside the children and engaging in meaningful conversation. On the day of inspection, the children and staff chatted about a cinema trip, family members and the different snacks that the children had in their lunchboxes.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children's individual personal needs promptly, offering discreet supervision for toileting and assisting with hand washing and blowing noses.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed;

- Toys and materials were grouped into defined interest areas with adequate props and supporting equipment to support engaging play experiences.
- Toys and materials were accessible on low level shelving which allowed children to access them independently.
- Play materials including jigsaws, books, mark making, roleplay and construction, were available to the children to facilitate a range of play experiences.
- A selection of books was available to support children’s language development.
- Cosy areas were available in the care rooms to provide children a comfortable place to rest or engage in quiet activities.
- Low level tables and chairs were available for use by the children which allowed them to engage in tabletop activities and meals comfortably.
- The outdoor area provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including gross motor and spontaneous play.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- The entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were in good working order.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Flexes and cords were stored safely out of reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- The care room was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day, for example, after outdoor play and before mealtimes.
- Snacks brought from home were stored in the fridge, ensuring perishable items were kept cool.
- Pedal bins were available in the care room and sanitary accommodation to ensure the hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- The care room and sanitary accommodation were observed to be clean and well maintained supported by up-to-date cleaning records.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The hot water in one wash hand basin in the first-floor sanitary accommodation exceeded the allowable maximum temperature of 43°C. The water temperature was recorded as 44.7°C at 10:34am, posing a potential risk of injury.

**Infection Control:**

2. The water in two wash hand basins in the first-floor sanitary accommodation was recorded as follows:

WHB 1	WHB 2
11.2°C	11°C

This is not conducive to effective handwashing, leading to a risk of poor infection control.

**Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**General Safety:**

1. Management immediately arranged for the water temperature to be adjusted. An updated risk assessment has been implemented to include water temperature checks prior to the children entering the building. Management will conduct staff training on the importance of maintaining safe water temperatures.

**Infection Control:**

2. Management immediately arranged for the water temperature to be adjusted. An updated risk assessment has been implemented to include water temperature checks prior to the children entering the building. Management will conduct staff training on the importance of maintaining safe water temperatures.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

No evidence submitted.

**Infection Control:**

No evidence submitted.

**Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) A person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the FAR training records maintained for two staff members and their scheduled attendance in the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous location on the premises.
  - (b) First aid boxes were available for the children in attendance in the event of an emergency.