

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY211			
Name of Service:	Happy Days			
Address of Service:	2A Quarry Road, Cabra, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	D07 TR20			
Name of Registered Provider:	Bridget Cooke			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	22/01/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	12
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15			
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne & Y Kelly			
Title:	Early Years Inspectors			

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

The service is located in an adapted commercial premises with one care room on the ground floor and one care room on the 1st floor. The service provides part-time and sessional childcare education and care to children aged from 2- to 5-year-old. The service can cater for a maximum of 34 children. The outdoor area is at the rear of the premises. The service caters for school aged children from 1pm to 6pm daily. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme

Staffing

The registered provider, who works in the service, employs eight staff within the service. On the day of inspection there were eight childcare staff working directly with the children including the registered provider. Four of the staff members and the registered provider were employed under the Access and Inclusion model (AIM).

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(3)(8)(a)

Regulation 16 Record Keeping (h)(i)(j)(k)

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

Regulation 25 First Aid.

Regulation 26 Fire Safety.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record in relation to Preschool Service and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included both rooms of the service – ECCE 1 and ECCE 2 rooms.

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 inspectors wish 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.

(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 registered provider ensured that-

- (a) the service had 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 was being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person was on the premises,
- (c) there was clear management structure in the service that identified the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2) The files of nine adults were reviewed to include the registered provider, four childcare staff and four staff employed under the Access and inclusion Model were reviewed as part of the inspection.

- (a) The registered provider had one written reference from a past employer and ensured that one written and validated reference was available in relation to two adults and two written and validated references were available in relation to four adults from a past employer.
- (b) The registered provider had one written reference from a reputable source and ensured one written and validated reference was available in relation to two adults and two written and validated references were available in relation to two adults from a reputable source.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for nine adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than 6 months.
- (4) Documentation was available to show that the nine adults 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

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore 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,*

Compliance Information

1) On the day of inspection, from 9.00am to 12.30pm, eight adults worked with 23 children aged between 2 years 6 months and 5 years and from 12.30pm to 2.00pm six adults worked with 12 children aged between 2 years 6 months and 5 years.

(2)(3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times, as follows:

Room	No. of Children aged 2years 6 months to 5 years Morning Session	No of Adults present	No. of Children aged 2years 8 months to 5 years 12.30pm to 2.00pm (Part time 1.5 hour)	No of Adults present
ECCE 1 Room	10	4	12	6
ECCE 2 Room	13	4	Closed	0
Total	23	8	12	6

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis was completed on an electronic application.
- (i) Staff roster was available demonstrating hours each staff worked.
- (j) A medicine administration record was available if medicine is required to be administered to a preschool child attending the service.
- (k) On review of ten accident and incident records, details were present and all forms were completed in full.

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 rooms were bright and inviting play spaces to enable children to explore their environment.
- A range of play based materials were easily accessible, organised, well-resourced and suitable to the age and stage of development of the number of children attending each room nurturing children's independence, ability to make decisions, enabling exploration and develop their play opportunities.
- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children.

- There were sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room. A large mat on the floor in ECCE 2 room was available for children to carry out floor activities such as jigsaw.
- Cosy areas with couches and large soft cushions for rest and relaxation were present in both care rooms.
- Displays of pictures of the children who were attending with their families and their birthdays were displayed in the service which supported children's well-being and identity and belonging.
- The children of both care rooms were provided with the opportunity of outdoor play time in the enclosed outdoor play area which consisted of artificial grass with a climbing frame with a slide, climbing wall with grips, stepping stones and large waffles, available.

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:

- On arrival to the service, access to the service via a door with a buzzer was monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and preventing children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- The arrival and departure time of each child, the registered provider and staff to the service was documented daily on the service electronic application.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature at 11.00am, of the ECCE 1 room was recorded as 18.8°C and of ECCE 2 Room was recorded as 20.2°C, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Children were observed to wash their hands after toilet visits and before lunch.

- Children lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available for disposal of contaminated items in the two classrooms and in the Sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance information

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. Nappy changing was not completed as per the service policy, for example,
 - Apron and gloves were not removed in a timely manner and were worn into the classroom.
 - Hands of two children were not washed
 - Hands of the adult where not washed for three nappy changes.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Garda vetting was sort immediately and obtained on 23 January 2025. To ensure that this does not reoccur the management will do audits of staff certificates so that garda vetting and new certificates that are essential ensuring compliance can be obtained.
2. Retraining on nappy change procedures was immediately given all staff and a form to confirm that training had taken place was signed by all staff. Spot checks on nappy changing procedures will be performed by management. Nappy changing procedures will be included in staff meetings. New staff will be trained in nappy changing procedures.

Evidence submitted

1. Copy of renewed Garda vetting.
2. Evidence of Staff Training completed.

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, The non compliances outlined above have been addressed.

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) The service provided evidence that two adults trained in First Aid Response were available to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in both care rooms of the service and were available to the adults responsible for the children.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(3) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 10 of December 2024.
- (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment were last serviced in February 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 2 October 2024.
- (4) The fire drill procedures were displayed on the back of the door of each care room and were observed by the Inspector.