

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY051
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Happy Days
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Curranes Community Childcare, Scoil Ide, Curranes, Castleisland, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 KW97
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Elizabeth Sweeney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	19/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>10</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	10	PM	None
AM	10	PM	None		

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N.Reidy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Happy Days is an early years service that is registered to cater for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The service currently caters for children aged between 3 years and 5 years. The service operates between the hours of 9 am and 12 mid-day Monday to Friday from a single playroom located in the National school.

### Staffing

There were 2 adults attached to the service, 1 adult employed to work directly with the children and the registered provider is the emergency contact person who is working in the National school.

### 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 inspections 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 person in charge 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*

*(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) The registered provider had a designated person in charge and a named emergency contact person.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the designated person in charge was on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) Since the previous inspection on 11 September 2023, it was established with the person in charge that one adult had commenced working in the service.
- (a) Two validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) Not applicable, two references were on file from a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the one adult. Garda vetting which had expired since the previous inspection had been renewed in respect of two adults. This was in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police Vetting was on file for 1 adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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.*
- (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)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) There was an adequate number of staff working with the children on the day of inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children were adhered to during inspection. There were 1 adult working directly with 10 children aged between 3 and 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis.
- (8)(c) There was a named person working within the building in the national school available to attend the service to assist the adult working with the children in the event of an emergency.

## 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-*
- (a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

#### BASIC NEEDS:

- During the inspection, there was a relaxed, calm and playful environment provided by the adult caring for the children.
- Children were able to access the toilets located within the playroom with the adult nearby to provide support if required.
- The inspector observed the adult standing at the exit door to the outdoor area to listen out for children should they need help whilst using the toilet as well as supervising the children playing outside.
- The children had the opportunity to play in the outdoor and outdoor area accessible directly from the playroom.
- The food consumed by the children is provided by the parents/guardians.

- A helper system was in place to bring the lunch bags to the tables; each child had a turn to do this as illustrated on a wall chart.
- The children had the choice of where they wanted to sit with the adult calmly assisting with this.
- The food observed on inspection included for example sandwiches, crackers and a selection of fruit.
- The children had ample time to eat the food they had with the adult sitting with them assisting them for example with opening their water bottles.
- The adult encouraged and enabled the children to return the lunch boxes to their bags after eating.
- The children who had finished eating before other were observed to pick some books from the variety of books on display and sit on the soft floor matting in place.
- Children received support, praise, encouragement and re-assurance from the adult caring for them. For example, the adult engaged with children who did not want to participate in group activities, who wanted to play indoors when the other children played outside and to get ready for home time, she came down to the child's level and spoke with them.

### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:**

- The adult had prepared Learning Journals for the children that included a selection of artwork completed by the children and a selection of photographs of the activities the children participated in during the year.
- The adult supported and encouraged the children to negotiate and resolve conflicts providing intervention and guidance and issuing reminders of "be safe with our hands".
- The adult practiced relaxation techniques by encouraging the children to take deep breaths pretending to "smell the flowers".
- The adult sang with the children at home time "Goodbye to my friends" in which the children happily participated in.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

- The playroom was observed to be bright, clean and it was airy.
- The playroom was equipped and furnished with a variety of age-appropriate play materials. The play materials were accessible to the children on low level open shelving, on the floor and in open boxes, this promoted independent access and freedom of choice by the children as observed throughout the inspection.

- The outdoor play area with the overhead roofed area located directly off the playroom, was used frequently throughout the session on the day of the inspection. The children were afforded the opportunity to go between the indoor and outdoor area as they so wished and the adult facilitated.
- The play opportunities for the children outdoors included for example a tuff tray with sand with some water added by the adult, shovels, small vehicles, cups, tools and high visibility jackets and hard hats.

### 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 cleaning products seen on inspection were stored on a high shelf out of the children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

- The children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and before the snack time.
- The adult cleaned down the tables before the snack was served.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The front of 2 radiator grids in the playroom were broken posing a risk of injury to the children.

##### Infection Control:

2. The lids of the pedal bins in the sanitary and in the playroom were broken. The children and the adult were observed lifting the lids when using them posing a risk of the spread of infection.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The radiator grids have been secured. The radiator grids will be checked regularly by the staff when they are being cleaned. These checks have been added to the cleaning plan.

##### Infection Control:

2. Two new pedal bins were purchased to replace the broken ones. The staff will ensure that the bins are checked regularly when they are cleaned. These checks have been added to the cleaning plan.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. Photographs of the two intact radiator grids.

### Infection Control:

2. Photographs and a receipt for proof of purchase in respect of the two bins.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

## 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 adult working directly with the children had up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training with the certification displayed in the playroom.
- (2)
  - (a) The First aid bag was stored up high, out of reach of children and clearly identifiable in the playroom.
  - (b) The First aid bag was suitably stocked for the number of children attending the service, it was available for staff to attend to the children if required.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
- (a) A record of each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 21.05.'25.
  - (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check for the smoke alarm was 09.06.'25 and for the firefighting equipment was 23.05.'24.
  - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (a) Visually the premise appeared to be sound and stable.
- (b) The playroom door was secured to prevent children from exiting.
- (c)
  - There was adequate and suitable lighting provided artificially with the covered light fittings in place and natural lighting via the windows.
  - There was an adequate means of air circulation provided via the openable windows.
  - The air temperature of the playroom and the sanitary accommodation was recorded at 19 degrees Celsius.
- (d) The premise appeared clean. There was a routine cleaning schedule in place and the records were maintained and complete to demonstrate this.

(e) There were 2 partitioned toilets provided and 2 wash hand basins with a supply of warm water at 1 wash hand basin. The temperature of the warm water was recorded at 19.7 degrees Celsius. A supply of liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels were provided at the wash hand basins.