

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015KY052 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Happy Feet Pre-school |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|

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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Snipefield, Ardfert, Tralee, Co. Kerry |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | V92 NAF4 |
|-----------------|----------|

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Rosario Godley |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Sessional |
|----------------------|-----------|

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| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b> | 27/04/2026 |
|-------------------------------|------------|

|                                   |    |    |    |      |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|------|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 15 | PM | None |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|------|

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

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### Description of service

Happy Feet Pre-school is registered as a privately operated early years service, catering for children aged between 2 years and 6 years on a sessional basis. The children attending on inspection were aged between 3 years and 5 years. The service offers one session between the hours of 8.50 am and 11.50 am Monday to Friday. The service is located in a purpose-built building at the registered provider's home setting in the rural area of Snipefield, Ardfer, Tralee, Co. Kerry. The service consists of 1 playroom with sanitary accommodation and a spacious outdoor play area situated at the side and to the front of the building.

### Staffing

There are 2 adults attached to the service employed to work directly with the children each day. This includes the registered provider.

### 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.

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 -

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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*

*(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.*

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### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and she works in the service each day.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the registered provider and the second staff member were on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) (a), (b) & (d) Following a review of the previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that no new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Garda vetting for the 2 staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (c) The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) The 2 staff working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

### 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)-*
- (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,*

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### Compliance Information

- (1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.
- (3) There were 2 adults caring for 15 children attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

### 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: -

- The parents/guardians of the children attending provide all the food for snack time.
- Children's individual drink's bottles were placed on the top of the low-level fridge in the playroom, for easy and independent access by the children during the session.
- In conversation, the staff informed that drinking water was available at the sink in the playroom to re-fill the children's bottles as needed.
- The food observed on inspection included a selection of fruit, sandwiches, yogurts and cheese.
- At the snack time, the staff sat with the children, providing a pleasant, shared, relaxed and a social activity for the children.
- The children had ample time to eat their food. Those who had finished eating before others went to play, for example colouring and playing in the home corner area.
- The children had free movement in the playroom and could independently access the toys as they wanted to.
- There was low level open shelving with a selection of toys, enabling the children to independently access them as needed.

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- The registered provider read the story “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” for the large group. A food posting activity game was paired with the story to encourage the children’s understanding, participation and enjoyment of the story. The hungry caterpillar was created by a caterpillar head with a hole for the mouth attached to a box and the children were each given a picture of a food item. In the order the items were in the story, the children identified the food and took their turns to “feed” the caterpillar in the order the items were in the story.
- Children took part in movement to music and nursery rhymes with actions in the large group.
- The inspector observed the children to practice and to develop their self help skills, as observed when working together to achieve the common goal of cleaning the tables with disinfectant wipes prior to the snack time and under the supervised of the staff.
- The staff members were kind and caring towards the children in their care, facilitating play-based activities for the children.
- The children enjoyed free movement in the spacious outdoor area during the inspection. There was a variety of play opportunities provided for the children such as on the concrete surface: - painting the large playhouse, toy kitchens and utensils, a sandbox with small toys and containers of various sizes and shapes, wheelbarrows and shovels and a selection of small vehicles.
- There were football goals, swing sets, obstacle course on the grassed surface where children were observed playing chasing games.

### 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 store/office located within the playroom was secured with a high-level closure device.
- The outdoor play area was secured with walls, fencing, hedging and a gate with a high-level closure.

##### Infection Control:

- The children’s perishable food items were refrigerated in the fridge located in the playroom to prevent food spoilage.

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- The inspector observed handwashing by the children took place before the snack time, after using the toilet and after playing outside.
- There was a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towels to promote effective handwashing by the children to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

### Fire Safety:

- Records on file demonstrated the service conducted fire drills on a monthly basis. The most recent fire drill was conducted on 14/4/'26.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The 2 hot drinks belonging to the staff were accessible on a low-level table in the playroom posing a risk of scalding to children. It was acknowledged when the inspector alerted the staff, the drinks were immediately removed to a high-level shelf out of the reach of the children.
2. The vinyl covering on a single chair in the rest area provided was torn, the soft foam lining was exposed posing a risk of injury to children.
3. The swing seat on the timber framed unit in the outdoor area was rusted posing a risk of injury to children.
4. A number of the first aid box supplies had expired and there were no burns dressings in stock posing a risk to children of not receiving adequate treatment in the event of an accident/injury.

#### Infection Control:

5. The children's drinks bottles were not individually labelled posing a risk of cross infection.

#### Fire Safety:

6. The records on file in respect of the smoke alarm demonstrated that it was not serviced on an annual basis. The record on file was a final certification for commissioning of the smoke alarm dated 10.12.'21. It was acknowledged the registered provider provided written confirmation the fire alarm was serviced on 28.4.'26 and advised the record of servicing will be furnished to the inspectorate to demonstrate this.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. All hot drinks will be kept on a high-level shelf. This ensures they are always out of reach of the children and eliminates any risk. A high -level shelf was installed specifically for adult beverages.

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2. Upon identification of the damaged furniture in the pre-school room, it was removed from the premises. Only items in good repair remain on site following a 100% inspection of the furniture. A monthly furniture audit will be conducted to check wear and tear.

3. The rusted swing seat was immediately removed. The swing seat will be replaced with a high durability plastic seat with a weather resistant rope suspension providing more comfortable seating for the children.

4. All the expired first aid supplies were immediately removed and disposed of. There was a comprehensive restock of the first aid box supplies that included the burns dressing. There will be a monthly inspection schedule conducted on the first aid box, commencing on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

### Infection Control:

5. Compliance is checked each day at the drop off time to ensure the children's bottles are clearly labelled before placing them on the hydration station.

### Fire Safety:

6. The fire alarm was serviced on 28.4.'26.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. A photograph of the high-level shelf in place.
2. The statement is accepted as evidence, and a copy of the monthly furniture audit was received.
3. A photograph demonstrating the seat was removed.
4. A photograph of the replenished first aid supplies delivered to the service.

#### Infection Control:

5. The statement is accepted as evidence.

#### Fire Safety:

6. A record of the fire alarm service conducted on 28.4.'26.

### Summary Comment

All the documentation received was reviewed. The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

##### Compliance Information

- (1) The service had a designated written record of the check in and out time for each child attending the service.

### 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) There was 1 staff member working in the service with current First Aid Responder (FAR) training completed, the certification for same was displayed in the service.
- (2)
- (a) The equipped first aid box was stored on a high-level shelf in the playroom, out of the reach of children.
- (b) At all times when the service is in operation, the first aid box was accessible to the adults in the event that children required them.