

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015KY053

**Name of Service** Happy Hearts Childcare

**Address of Service:** The Green, Barraduff, Killarney, Co Kerry, V93FNK3

**Email Address:** happyhearts2009@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mary Cahill

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

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children from 68 to 96  
Change in number of staff from 7 to 16

**Proposed Number of Children:** 96

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Adequate facilities available, change to be approved

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 68 to 96  
Change in number of staff from 7 to 16

**Date of Inspection:** 1 0 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** V. McCarthy

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building,  
St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher,  
Cork

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 96 Children  
**Date of Registration** 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Happy Hearts Childcare is a privately operated service which provides a full day care service to children aged between 1 and 6 years of age. It operates between 8am to 6pm on a daily basis.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is a detached 2-storey building that is situated within a residential area in a rural village setting. Currently, there are 3 care rooms namely the Toddler Town room, the Wonderland room and the Happy Trails room. Post renovation works carried out, it is proposed to operate a fourth care room named the Honey Tree room. There is a designated outdoor play area available to the rear and side of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	During the inspection, there were 8 adults on the premises of which 7 adults were working directly with the children. The eight adult who was the registered provider facilitated the inspector with the fit for purpose inspection.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

(1)(a) The service has a record of the named person in charge and name of the adult who can deputise as required displayed on the notice board in the main foyer.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

An adequate number of adults were available at the premises on the day of inspection. There were 4 adults attached to the upstairs Happy Trails room working directly with 10 early years' children of which 9 were aged between 1 and 2 years and 1 child was aged between 2 and 3 years.

There were 3 adults attached to the upstairs Wonderland room working directly with 13 children all aged over 3 years.

The 2 downstairs care rooms namely the Toddler Town room and the Honey Tree room were fully set up but were not in use.

The registered provider informed the inspector that there will be up to 16 adults working at the premises at any one time.

### 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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(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—

(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

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The shelves, presses and storage containers are situated at a low height so that all items are accessible to the children. The low shelving and containers in each of the 4 care rooms are furnished with a wide selection of toys and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition.

(b) There are adequate rest facilities consisting of a variety of mats, bean bags or cushions provided in each of the care rooms. There is a supply of stackable beds available on the premises for any child aged over 2 years that may require a sleep. There is a designated sleep room provided beside the Toddler Town room furnished with 15 standard cots for use by any child aged less than two years that may require a sleep.

(2)(b), (3)(a) The children in each care room have access to the outdoor play area. The perimeter of the outdoor play area is secured by high fencing and secured gates.

### 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 is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

All food all the children's snacks and meals are provided by the children's respective parents and guardians. A supply of additional food for meals and snacks is available in the main kitchen's fridge and freezer for any child that may forget to bring their own food. A fridge is available in each care room to store the children's perishable food. Up to 3 microwaves are available in each care room so that the children's food for their hot meals can be reheated without delays. A tray with the children's labelled water bottles or beakers are available in each care room for children's so that a child may easily access a drink of water if he/she is thirsty. A supply of appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for children's use at their snack breaks.

The service adheres to a Healthy Eating policy.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 main entrance door to the service is secured by a magnetic lock to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The doors positioned at the top and bottom of stairs and along corridors are fitted with magnetic locks to ensure the safety of the children.
- Each of the 4 care rooms at the service were provided with its own high wall mounted first aid cabinet which are out of children’s reach.
- The outdoor play area is secured by high fencing and secured gates that reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- All toys and play equipment are noted to be safe and in good condition.
- Liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins are provided, adjacent to each of the children’s and adult’s wash hand basins.
- The temperature of the water at the wash hand basins is thermostatically controlled to a temperature of no greater than 43°C. The water from the hot water taps was recorded at 33.3°C on the day of inspection.
- Individually labelled wall hooks are provided outside each care room for the storage of children’s coats and personal belongings.
- Flexes and leads are not accessible to the children.
- The emergency exit doors are kept unobstructed.
- Cleaning agents are stored on high shelving out of children’s reach.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 inspector noted that 7 adults have up to date First Aid Response (FAR) training and these certificates are available on file.

(2)

There is a fully equipped first cabinet wall mounted high in each of the 4 care rooms. Additionally, there is a fully equipped first aid box on the premises that is also kept out of children's reach.

### 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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out at the premises is available on file. The last fire drill was carried out on 02 August 2023.

(b) There is a record available on file regarding the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The fire extinguishers were last serviced on 31 July 2023 and the wired smoke alarms were serviced on 05 January 2023.

(4)

There are notices to be followed in the event of a fire displayed throughout the premise. A designated assembly point marked by clear signage is available to the front of the premises.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

An insurance certificate with details is available on file. The service is insured for up to 96 children attending full day care. The insurance refers to details about fire, theft, and public liability cover. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is 27 March 2024.

### 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:

- (a)  
The main premise is an Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) 2-storey building that appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b)  
The main entrance to the building is secured by a magnetic lock that prevents unauthorised access or the leaving of an unsupervised child. The windows in each of the 4 care rooms are fitted with restrictors. A perimeter fence and secured gates surround the outdoor areas. The premise is connected to the public water supply and public sewage system.
- (c)  
The service is heated by means of under floor heating. Air conditioning units and mechanical ventilation units are provided throughout the premises. There is a coat/changing room off the outdoor play area where children can hang their outdoor coats and protective clothing and this room is also provided with mechanical ventilation. Each care room is provided with a mixture of ceiling lights and natural lighting by use of windows.  
On the day of inspection, the air room temperature in the Toddler Town care room was recorded at 21.8°C. the air temperature of the sleep room was recorded at 19.8°C.
- (d)  
All rooms are maintained in clean and good condition. The registered provider informed the inspector that the adults assigned to each care room practice a clean as you go policy and carry out a more in-depth clean at the end of each day.

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	<p>Detailed cleaning schedules are available on the electronic application used by the staff at the service.</p> <p>(e) The 2 downstairs rooms namely the Toddler Town room and the Honey Tree room have access to 3 toilet cubicles and access to a separate nappy changing room that is furnished with 3 nappy changing units. The upstairs 2 care rooms namely Wonderland room and Happy Trails room has 2 toilet cubicles each. There is 1 nappy changing room positioned off a corridor upstairs. There are an additional 2 toilet cubicles for children’s use located off the outdoor play area. Throughout the premises, there is a wash hand basin available for each toilet and each nappy changing unit.</p> <p>In total there are 9 toilets and 4 nappy changing units for children’s use.</p> <p>There are 3 toilets for use by the adults on the premises. Therefore, there is an adequate number of toilets, nappy changing units and wash hand basins for the proposed 96 children and 16 adults on the premise.</p>
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### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (1)(2)(4)			
	<b>Room Name</b>	<b>Age profile</b>	<b>Proposal numbers</b>	<b>Room Space</b>
	Toddler Town room	Children aged 1 to 3 years	25 to 30 children depending on age	71m2

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	Honey Tree room	Children aged over 2 years	24 children	58m <sup>2</sup>	<p>The minimum space requirement for each child aged 1 to 2 years is 2.8m<sup>2</sup>, for children aged 2 to 3 years is 2.35m<sup>2</sup> and for a child aged 3 years or over attending full day care service is 2.3 square metres or 1.818 square metres whilst attending Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) service.</p> <p>The service has adequate space for the proposed 96 early years children at the premises depending on the number and age of children catered for at any one time in the downstairs Toddler Town and Honey Tree rooms.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to cater for up to 22 children each in both the upstairs Wonderland and Happy Trails rooms every morning of which up to 19 may remain on in each of the 2 care rooms in full day care capacity.</p> <p>(3)(5) Not applicable as this service is not a drop-in centre or a temporary preschool service.</p>
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