

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**usla I.D:** TU2015KY053

**Name of Service:** Happy Hearts Childcare Ltd.

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

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mary Cahill

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

**Proposed change to service:** From a sessional service to a full day care

**Proposed Number of Children:** 68

**Registered change:**

- Change of Service Name: to Happy Hearts Childcare
- Change of Service Address: to The Green, Barraduff, Killarney, Co.Kerry
- Change in Legal Name of Company: to Happy Hearts Childcare Limited
- Change in Number of Children: to 68
- Change in Age Profile of Children: to 1-6years (also School Age service)
- Change in Hours of Operation: to 8-6pm
- Change in Number of Staff: to 7staff plus Registered Provider
- Change in Service Type: to Full Daycare

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	7	1	0	2	0	2	1
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**Inspection undertaken by:** M Carney

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Child & Family Agency, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen West Cork

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### Rationale for Inspection:

#### Proposed Change of Circumstance

Change from operating a sessional service catering for 17 children to a full day care service catering for up to 68 children at any one time.

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered full day care for 68 children aged 1-6years at The Green, Barraduff, Killarney, Co.Kerry
<b>Date of Registration</b>	19/10/2021

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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 Limited is a private service proposing to operate a full day care early years and education service for children aged from 1 year to school age. Intended hours of operation are from 08:00am to 18:00pm. An after-school facility has also been planned.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located on a new housing estate within the rural village of Barraduff approximately 12 kms from Killarney. The premises is a new build. It is a detached, 2 storey, double fronted Georgian styled property. It provides a spacious activity room on the ground floor with separate sleep room, toilets, nappy changing and ample storage spaces. There is direct access to a secured outdoor play area. The first floor offers 2 large activity rooms with sufficient toilet accommodation. The staff members have access to a kitchen/staff room, office and toilets. Adequate parking space to the front of the property is available for the safe arrival and departure of the children.
<b>Staffing</b>	At the time of the inspection the service had not commenced operation, therefore staff were not present.
<b>Methodology</b>	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 two themes; Governance, and Safety. 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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day.

**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>Requirement met:</b>	(1)(a) The registered provider will be working within the service. In addition, a deputy has been employed to deputise as required.
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**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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—  
 (b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and  
 (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1) The service was not in operation, however in discussion with the registered provider it was established that adult child ratios would be maintained.
	(8) (b) & (c) This service is proposing to operate a full day care service. Provisional rosters indicated that at least 2 staff members shall be on the premises during the hours of operation.

**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.*

*(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*

*(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*

*(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*

*(5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) Happy Hearts Childcare was found to provide adequate and suitable facilities for play indoors and outdoors as described below -

- The service was proposing to operate 3 activity rooms, namely toddler town on the ground floor with pre-school room 1 and a multifunctional room on the first floor.
- The 3 activity rooms were designed and laid out in the same manner. The rooms were spacious, clean and bright.
- They were furnished with a sufficient number of child sized tables and chairs, some of which were new and the remainder visually clean and in a good state of repair.
- In toddler town there were 3 separate sets of new wooden tables and chairs to suit the needs and sizes of the age groups that would be attending.
- The 3 rooms were furnished with low open display shelving units and boxed storage for the children to gain easy access to the wide range of play materials and educational resources.
- Toddler town provided play equipment for children up to the age of 2 years such as pull along toys, play centres, sound making equipment, floor puzzles and many matching games and fine motor skill play equipment.
- The pre-school room on the first floor was equipped with play and educational materials for the children aged over 2.5 years such as the Montessori resources, arts and crafts, construction blocks and book area. A wooden play kitchen with traditional dresser and a wide range of utensils provided plentiful opportunities to entice the children’s imagination, play and fun.
- The multipurpose room was equipped for children requiring one-to-one engagement such as the sensory light up tables and tabletop activities. In addition, there was a wide selection of resources suitable for older children and after school activities such as the football table.
- The service provided a separate sleep room on the ground floor which was furnished with 7 standard cots.

- Low beds were stored on the first floor for children over the age of 2 years that required a sleep.
- Rest areas had been developed in each of the care rooms, the toddler town had a matted area where a circus tent was erected to invite the children to rest as they so wished.
- The pre-school room had a rest corner situated by the displayed books which was furnished with a yellow couch that folded out to a bed. In addition, there was a child sized armchair for rest and relaxation.

(b)

- The service does not propose to accommodate overnight accommodation.

(2)(b)

- The service provided a large wrap around garden to the rear of the premises. It was laid with a hard surface for ride on toys and child friendly critical fall matting.
- The play area was furnished with a wide range of gross motor skill equipment which was visually clean and well maintained. There were ride on toys, cars, trucks, balance games, balls and hoops.
- There were child sized picnic benches with adjoined seating and umbrellas for the children to sit and eat lunches and socialise.
- The garden had been mapped out for a sensory area and a rich risk play section.

(3)(a) &(b)

- The service provided a suitable and safe outdoor play area.

(4) & (5)

- Not applicable as the service provided an outdoor play area.

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 registered provider stated that the parents and guardians are to provide all the children’s dietary food and drink in the initial phase of opening as the majority of children will be attending on a sessional basis.
- The service had a healthy eating policy in place to encourage that only healthy, nutritious and varied meals are to be offered. Hot meals will be provided by the parents for children attending on a full day care basis. Microwaves have been installed in each kitchen for heating dinners.
- In conversation with the registered provider, it was stated that each staff member will be appropriately trained in food safety to ensure the correct heating of meals.
- It was evidenced that the HSE Environmental Health Service was contacted by the registered provider on the 12 October 2021 to clarify that the service had the capacity to adapt their existing kitchen to provide meals as required.
- In addition, the registered provider described items of food that will be stored for use in the event of a child either forgetting a meal or spillages.
- Large new fridges had been installed and fitted into the kitchen quarters of each activity room for the safe and hygienic storage of the children’s food items.
- Kitchen units were equipped with a wide range of utensils such as spoons, plates and beakers.

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 inspector assessed how children’s health, safety and welfare will be safeguarded by observation and in conversation with the registered provider as detailed below -

**GENERAL SAFETY:**

- The service had installed a magnetic pad locking system whereby the main entrance was duly secured to prevent unauthorised persons and to prevent a child from accessing the nearby road.
- The internal doors were operated by the same magnetic pad locking system thereby the children would not be able to access areas unsupervised to the corridors leading to the kitchen/staff room or office.
- Windows had been fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- There was 1 window blind without a cord situated in the sleep room especially designed for safety.

- The fitted kitchen quarters in the 3 activity rooms had child proofed locked cabinets. The dishwashers were suitably secured and inaccessible to small children. The kettles and microwaves were positioned behind guards.
- Cleaning products were stored safely in secured cupboards.
- The stairwell was well lit and had non-slip carpet covering on the steps.
- Child height handrails had been fitted in the stairwell for the children’s safety.
- Cables and wiring were discreetly concealed.
- The fire doors were unobstructed.
- Bins were not accessible to the children.
- Toys and play equipment were observed to be new, clean and in good condition.
- The staff members had access to storage space for their personal items in the kitchen/staff room.

**INFECTION CONTROL:**

- Happy Hearts Childcare had a sign in and out visitors log for contact tracing in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19. The log was placed by the entrance.
- Sanitising products were placed at strategic points for adult use, such as in the corridor and in the activity rooms.
- Masks were made available at the entrance for adult use.
- Cleaning schedules had been devised and loaded onto the wall mounted tablet devices situated in each care area for staff members to complete.
- There were paper roll dispensers situated in the kitchens and throughout the rooms for cleaning purposes.
- The service provided a sufficient number of child sized toilets and wash hand basins with mixer taps. These facilities were located adjoined to the rooms and were well equipped.
- The plant room situated on the ground floor displayed that the temperature of the water had been thermostatically set to 43 degrees Celsius.
- A vacuum cleaner was available on both the ground floor and first floor for cleaning purposes. A steamer was available for the cleaning of tiles.
- On the first floor was a sluice room for the storage of cleaning products.
- There were generous supplies of protective gloves and single use aprons and toilet tissues
- The children had access to 2 separate child sized toilets and wash hand basins in the outdoor play area to encourage independent toileting.
- There were 2 adult toilets and wash hand basins for staff use 1 of which had wheelchair access.
- There was a separate nappy changing room interlinked with toddler tow. It was furnished with 1 wooden changing unit with integral steps which were operated by a safety catch and allowed for children to step up safely for nappy changing.
- There were 2 wash hand basins in-situ and a nappy bin.
- A recessed wall cupboard stocked a selection of nappies, nappy bags and wipes. In conversation with the registered provided it was stated that the service would provide all nappy requirements to prevent cross contamination. Barrier creams

and personal ointments would be provided by the parents and stored in the children's individual labelled baskets.

- A wall mounted tablet device was available for the recording of all nappy changes to be completed by the staff members.
- A nappy changing policy was strategically displayed to encourage good practice.
- The registered provider stated that she was conversant with the procedures that were in place on how to manage a child or adult with suspected COVID-19 illness. An isolation area had been developed in the staff office. It had been equipped with the correct personal protective equipment.

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:**

- In conversation with the registered provider, it was stated that she was conversant with the procedures that are to be followed if a child required medication.

**FIRE SAFETY:**

- It was evidenced that fire safety training had taken place and that the manager had a clear understanding of the records that are to be maintained and of the procedures that are needed to be followed in the event of a fire.

**SAFE SLEEP:**

- The service provided a separate sleep room within the toddler town activity room. It was furnished with 7 new white standard cots. There were no footholds on the cots and cot barrier height was sufficient to prevent a child falling.
- The cots were well spaced and situated away from the window.
- Each cot was designated 2 fitted sheets and a grow bag, duvets and pillows were not in use.
- The registered provider described the procedures that were in place to clean and alternate cot linen with each child having their own bedding. A cupboard just outside the sleep room was stocked with colour coordinated storage boxes in readiness.
- A laundry facility was available in the service.
- The ambient air temperature of the sleep room was registered at 19.1degrees Celsius within the recommended guidelines for sleep rooms. A wall mounted thermometer was in place.
- Whilst in discussion with the registered provider it was stated that 10-minute physical sleep observations on the children would be entered into the wall mounted tablet device and the information could be shared with the parent.

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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

#### Requirement met:

- (1)  
The registered provider provided up to date certification for 2 staff members that had received first aid responder training which had been conducted in July 2021.
- (2)(a)  
The 3 activity rooms each had wall mounted first aid cabinets which would have been accessible to the children. They were suitably stocked.

### 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.
- (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:

- (1) The registered provider had a record of the following -
- (a) A template for the recording of monthly fire drills.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. Certification indicated that fire safety checks had been completed on installation in August 2021.
- (4)  
Fire evacuation procedures were displayed and placed throughout the service.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

#### Requirement met:

On the day of the inspection the registered provider provided certification to evidence that the service was adequately insured for up to 68 children on a full day care basis. The expiry date was recorded as February 2022.

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 service was a new build which had commenced building works in February 2021. Decoration and painting had been completed throughout. Walls had been painted a muted grey with contrasting darker grey floor tiles in the corridors. Care room floors were laid with laminate wood panelling. Doors, architrave and skirting boards were varnished to seal the natural wood. Display boards were installed in the corridors and care rooms to protect wall spaces.
- (b) The service was observed to be safe and secure. Magnetic pad locking systems were in place and the outdoor play areas were secured by walling and metal fencing. CCTV had been installed.
- (c) The premises had been fitted throughout with sensor lights, except for the sleep room. This allowed for adequate lighting at all times. Lights were fitted with clear white protective covers and most were recessed into the ceilings. There was underfloor heating installed in the service and ambient air temperatures registered at 19.1 degrees Celsius which was within the recommended range. In conversation with the registered provider, it was reported that as well as openable windows a regulated ventilation system had been installed.
- (d) The service was a new build therefore clean and in a good state of repair.
- (e) The service provided enough toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing facilities for the number of children enrolled and employees.

**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.*

**Requirement met:**

(1)– (5)

Happy Hearts Childcare has adequate clear floor space to accommodate the 68 children which they are applying to register for.