

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015KY076

Name of Service Happy Valley Childcare

Address of Service: St. Joseph's National School, Castlemaine, Co. Kerry, V93 R273

Email Address: happyvalleycastlemaine@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Katarzyna Dumka

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

Proposed change: Moving from the room in the National school to the prefab on the same grounds

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Move from the room in the National school to the prefab on the same grounds.
New operating hours 7.30 am -6pm

Registered change: Full Day Care Service operating from Prefab on the grounds of the National School
New operating hours 7.30 am -6pm

Date of Inspection:	0	9	0	2	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by: N. Reidy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

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 22 Children

Date of Registration 18th February 2026

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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).

Description of Service	<p>Happy Valley Childcare is an early years full day care service that caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care Education Scheme (ECCE) and school aged children (SAC). The registered hours of opening are 07.45 am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The ECCE scheme operates between the hours of 9.00 and 12. The service is registered to provide care to children from 2 to 6 years. The service has applied for approval to operate from a prefabricated structure on the grounds of the National school.</p>
Premises	<p>The prefab consists of one care room, a kitchen, an office and children’s sanitary accommodation. The adult sanitary accommodation is located in the National School. The children have access designated outdoor play areas, namely the sensory are at alternate times to the national school children, to the designated area at the rear of the prefab and to the community playground located also at the rear of the prefab during the allocated times.</p> <p>The school aged children are cared for in a room in the National school.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are currently 6 staff attached to the service who are employed to work working directly with the children, this includes the registered provider. Currently there is 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme.</p>
Methodology	<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</p>

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	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.
Additional Information	The service was found to be operating from the prefab prior to approval from the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	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.

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) The designated person in charge is the registered provider and there is a named person who is able to deputize as required.

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)

- The inspector observed that 14 children were attending the service during the inspection. The children ranged in age between 2 years 8 months and 5 years with 4 staff members working directly with them. This included the registered provider who worked with the children as well as facilitating the inspection.
- The registered provider will ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working with the children directly in the service.

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—*
- (a) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)
(a)

- The children have access to a variety of age-appropriate equipment and play materials that are available and accessible to them on the floor and on open low level shelving units in the care room.
- In addition, there was a range of toys and play materials stored in the office, which the registered provider stated are rotated in line with the children’s emerging interests.
- The care room was furnished with a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs.
- The care room was laid out with a variety of interest areas. There was a range of play materials and equipment that included for example books, home area with associated utensils and food items, small animals, small vehicles, blocks and train sets, for the proposed age range of the children.
- The children have access to 3 outdoor play areas including one sensory area located on the school grounds, one community playground located on the school grounds and one designated to the service directly accessible from the care room via the fire door. The sensory and community areas are used at alternate times to the children attending the National school.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a shed used for storage of the outdoor play items in outdoor area directly accessible from the care room. <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The care room has a designated “calm” area with furnished soft vinyl seating, cushions, a rug on the floor and extendable soft matting. • There was a retractable screen fixed to the wall in the “calm” area, creating a quiet separate area from the rest of the care room if required for children to rest with an allocated adult to supervise as the registered provider advised. • There were 2 stackable beds with linen provided for the stackable beds. The linen is individual to each child. <p>(2)(a) The children have access to 3 fully enclosed and secured outdoor play areas.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents and guardians of the proposed children attending provide the food for the morning snack. • The service provides all food for breakfast, lunch and the afternoon snacks. • Potable drinking water is available in a water dispenser in the care room. • The children have access to drinking water in their individual drink’s bottles throughout the day. • The designated kitchen was equipped with a microwave, air fryer, toaster, a fridge freezer and a dishwasher. • The cupboards stock a variety of non-perishable food items for the children. • Milk and water are the 2 main drinks offered to the children. • There were adequate cutlery and crockery in place for the proposed number of children attending
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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 entry/exit main door to the premise was secured with a high-level touch button release system.
- The kitchen and the office were secured.
- The cables of the touch screen monitor were secured.
- The openable windows were located at a height out of the reach of the children.
- There were no cords attached to the blinds in the care room.
- The staff lockers located in the hall area outside the children’s sanitary accommodation were secured.
- The cleaning products were stored in the secure kitchen and on high level shelving.
- The children’s barrier creams, wipes, plastic disposable aprons and gloves were stored in a secured cupboard under the nappy changing unit.
- The cleaning spray used to clean down the nappy changing unit was stored on a high-level shelf above the unit.
- The alarmed fire door in the care room had a low-level openable handle. The door opened freely to the outside and the alarm was in working order.
- The first aid box was stored in the secured kitchen.
- The medicines observed on inspection were stored on a high shelf in the secured office.
- The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed and secured with gates and fencing.
- The children’s arrival and departure times were recorded on the day of the inspection.

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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 certifications presented to the inspector evidenced that 4 staff members had up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.
- (2)(a) There is a suitably equipped first aid box provided for the children in the service. It is stored in the secured kitchen.
- (b) The suitably equipped first aid box is available in the service

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:

- (1)
 - (a) The service maintains a record of the monthly fire drills that take place in the service. The last fire drill took place on 20.01.'26.
 - (b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the wired smoke alarm was available on file. It was recorded that firefighting equipment was last serviced on 16.07.'25 and the smoke alarm system was last serviced on the 14.01.'26.
- (4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the service

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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 quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to the inspection.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

- From a visual assessment, the premises appeared to be sound and stable.

(b)

- The entrance door to the building was secured with a high-level push button opening device, to prevent unauthorized visitors from entering the premise and to prevent children leaving the premise unsupervised.

(c)

- The lighting in the proposed care room, sanitary facilities and entrance areas is supplied by a combination of natural lighting through the windows and doors supplemented by artificial lights fitted with protective covers.
- The heating system is provided by electric wall mounted heaters in the care room and 1 electric ceiling mounted heater in the hall area outside the toilets.
- The air temperatures of the care room and of the children’s sanitary accommodation were recorded within the range of 18 -20 degrees Celsius.

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- Natural ventilation was provided in the premise by means of a number of openable windows.

(d)

- From observation on the day of the inspection the play equipment and furniture appeared to be clean and in a good condition.
- Records of cleaning schedules were on file for the premise.

(e)

- The children's sanitary facilities, located outside of the care room, consisted of 2 rooms with 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin in each.
- In addition, in one of the rooms there was a nappy changing unit and an allocated wash hand basin.
- The adult sanitary facility was located in the National school.
- There was thermostatically controlled warm water at all the wash hand basins observed with a supply of liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were provided.
- A pedal operated, sealed and lined bin was in place for nappy disposal.

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).*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space is available in the care room for the work, play and movement of the children in the service.
- (2) The minimum clear floor space in the care room measured 52.96 square metres for the 22 pre-school children in the playroom. The registered provider advised that the requirement for the minimum clear floor space for the mixed age range of the proposed children in the room will be adhered to.
- (3) & (4) The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously cater for children attending the sessional service and the part-time/full day care service. The proposed room allows for the children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.