

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2016MO007

Name of Service: Happy Tots Childcare

Address of Service: Ballinvilla,
Irishtown,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo

Email Address: kilvinechildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Honorah Ronayne

Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional		Part-Time		Drop-In	
	Full Day Care	ü	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change of service type to include full day care
Change in hours of operation to 8am - 6pm

Proposed Number of Children: 22 (no change to current register)

Registered change: Full day care for 22 children from 8am to 6pm

Date of Inspection:	1	7	0	5	2	0	2	1
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Inspection undertaken by: B Mc Carthy

Title: Registration Support Manager

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency.
Clinical and Admin building, Merlin Park, Galway

Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered change to full day care for 22 children operating from 8am to 6pm
Date of Registration	12 th July 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).

Description of Service	<p>The pre school consists of a community service situated in a large bright purpose built crèche. The building has its own enclosed play areas. The service has close links with the local community. The service proposes to change from a part time service to full time care.</p> <p>HappyTots childcare caters for 2 Years 6 Months to 5 year olds and is opened 47 weeks a year from 8am until 6pm.</p> <p>There is a service for school aged children operating from the service. Insurance is in place for a maximum of 20 school age children.</p> <p>To prepare for reopening the registered provider has put procedures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a single storey facility located in the rural village of Irishtown in Co. Mayo close to the Galway and Roscommon border. It consists of one large bright open plan pre school playroom with direct access to the outdoor play area. There is another playroom for the use of the school age children.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are five staff working in the service including relief staff. The manager of the service is a member of the childcare staff and works directly with the children.</p> <p>All the staff have completed a major award in Early Childhood and Education.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess the requirements for the proposed change in circumstances submitted compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.</p> <p>The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Office for consideration of a decision in relation to the acceptance of the proposed change in circumstances. 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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, Person in Charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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:

(a) There will be a manager working in the service at all times, a person in charge and a person who is able to deputise.

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.

Requirement met:

(1) There are presently 5 staff employed with 21 children proposed to be registered. There will be relief staff available.
(8)(b) not applicable.
(8) (c) not applicable.

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

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(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:	<p>(1)(a) This requirement has been met. Adequate space was provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The service is offering a play based programme with a well-resourced play room divided into areas of interest. Programmes have been revised by the use of a play pod with assigned staff to facilitate social distancing. Periods of outdoor play have been increased.</p> <p>(1)(b) Suitable soft matting and soft furniture was also available for children to rest during the day.</p> <p>(2)(b) The service has its own enclosed play area. A suitable and secure large outdoor play area was available adjacent to the classroom. There is a large range of outdoor equipment including an outdoor kitchen. It is proposed that children will access the outdoor daily. Plans are in place to build a sheltered play area to facilitate outdoor play in all weathers. There are playing fields adjacent to the service available for the children to play in.</p> <p>(3)(a) Arrangements are in place for the children to play outdoors daily.</p> <p>(3)(b) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</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:	Children were provided with suitable, nutritious meals and snacks at regular intervals throughout the day. Children attending the service on a sessional basis bring their own snacks.
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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:	This requirement has been met, there are currently no hazards or sources of danger were observed in the service during the course of the inspection. Entrances and exits are safe, secure and are locked when children are present. The layout of the service has been reviewed to ensure children from different play pods are separated, in so far as practical. There is a fridge in the playrooms for the storage of snacks. There is thermostatically controlled hot water in the sanitary area. The temperature was recorded as 40 degrees C.
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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,*
 - (b) *and is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times*

Requirement met:	(1) The requirement has been met. Two staff have certification in paediatric first aid valid until August 2021. Arrangements are in place for training to renew certification. (2) (a) There was suitably equipped first aid box available; also a first aid box was available for outings. This was stored safely in the class room and (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times
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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) Provision for the recording of fire drills was available. (b) The type, number and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. The equipment was maintained in April 2021. (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire specific to the early year's service was available. There was a clearly identified fire assembly point at the front of the building
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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:	There was adequate insurance available in the service for 22 early years children and 20 school age children. The insurance is valid until 28th February 2022.
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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 service operates from a single storey facility. It consists of one large bright open plan pre school playroom with direct access to the enclosed outdoor play area. There is another playroom for the use of the school age children. From my observation it was <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space is provided in the classroom for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The playroom measures 60.80sq.mts which allows space for proposed change of type to full day care.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) (a) not applicable
(b) The playroom measures 60.80sq.mts which allows for the proposed change.
- (5) Not applicable.