

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D.: TU2025LK001

Name of Service: Happy Faces

Address of Service: Askeaton National School
Askeaton
Co Limerick

Email Address: gilmour78@hotmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Julie Lundon

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

Proposed service type: Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

Space for 18 preschool children to attend the ECCE programme.

Registered service: Registered for 18 children.

Date of Inspection: 2 5 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection Undertaken by: J Ryan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service for 18 children.

Date of Registration: 28th August 2025

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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 Faces Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service is a private sessional service located in a room in the national school in the town of Askeaton, Co Limerick. The service will provide sessional care Monday-Friday from 09.30hrs to 12.30hrs for 38 weeks of the year.</p> <p>The space available in the room allows for a maximum of 18 pre-school children attend the service at any one time.</p> <p>A school aged service is not registered to operate in the afternoon from the service. The registered provider will not be working on site in this service however she will be contactable as she operates a full day care service within the area.</p>
Premises	The service is located in a room of the local national school.
Staffing	A designated person in charge has been appointed by the registered provider to operate the service on a daily basis. A person who can deputise for the person in charge has also been appointed. A third staff member will also be available on a daily basis in the room. All staff members who propose to work in the service will have childcare qualifications.
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 four 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 the registering application. 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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and/or person in charge 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:

(1)(a) The service has appointed a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise 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:

(1) The registered provider will ensure that a sufficient number of adults will work directly with the group of children on a daily basis.
 Three staff will be available to work in the service on a daily basis.

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.

(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 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 pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

(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

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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) Facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors were suitable as there were clearly defined interest areas in the rooms and sufficient play equipment was evident in the outdoor play area.</p> <p>(b) Suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day were available as the room had child sized seating where staff and children could sit comfortably and relax together.</p> <p>(2)(a) A safe secure outdoor space was available on site for outdoor play for the children.</p> <p>(3) Not applicable</p> <p>(4) The outdoor space was suitable, safe and secure.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable</p>
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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>Nutritious snacks and drinks will be provided by parents, and perishable foods will be refrigerated where required.</p> <p>A healthy eating policy was documented.</p>
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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:	<p>The entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service unaccompanied.</p> <p>Drinking water was readily available to the children.</p> <p>Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.</p> <p>The registered provider was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C.</p> <p>Window blinds cords did not pose a potential hazard as tension devices were attached to them to make them safe.</p> <p>Toys and play equipment were safe and suitable for the age of children using them.</p>
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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:

- (1) Two staff trained in first aid for children (First Aid Responder) will be immediately available to the children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available.
- (b) The first aid box will be available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

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) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills that will take place in the premises.
- (1)(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available. Fire extinguishers were last serviced in September 2024. Smoke alarms were serviced in July 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible in the outdoor play area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The proposed sessional service had adequate insurance.

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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 premises on visual inspection;

- (a) Was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Was safe and secure.
- (c) Was kept adequately lit with natural and artificial lighting, heated and ventilated with openable windows.
- (d) Was cleaned, maintained and repaired as required.
- (e) Sanitary facilities were sufficient as there were one adult toilet and one wash hand basin available to cater for three staff. There were two children’s toilets, two wash hand basins to cater for a maximum of 18 preschool children.

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:

- (3) Not Applicable
- (4) Not Applicable
- (5) Not Applicable

Requirement not met:

- (1) Sufficient clear floor space is not available in the room for the 20 children proposing to attend the pre-school service.

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	<p>(2) The measurements of the playroom were recorded as follows:</p> <p>5.60 x 5.90 meters = 33.04 sq. meters. Total space available is 33.04 sq. meters.</p> <p>A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is required for each child who attends the ECCE service allows 18 children attend.</p>
Response from Provider:	The registered provider has responded stating a maximum of 18 preschool children will attend at any one time.
Summary Comment:	The regulatory requirements of Regulation 30 have been met.