

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Sandra TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO016
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Name of service:	Happy Days
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Address of service:	Oxfield Park, Oxfield Road, Carney, Sligo, F91 Y42V.
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Name Of registered provider:	Sandra Loftus
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Type of service registered:	Sessional	☒	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐
	Full Day Care	☐	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐

Date of Inspection:	16/09/2022
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Number of pre-school children present:	AM	5	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84.
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Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of Service	Happy Days is a private sessional early years service. It is one of two early years services in the county operated by the same private provider. Happy Days is situated on the outskirts of Carney village which is a short distance north of Sligo town. The service occupies a single room within the local community centre. There is dedicated sanitary accommodation for the service and use of an indoor sports hall. The children have access to outdoor play through the form of short walks and ball play activities on the football grounds which are on the community centre premises. The service caters for children aged 3 to 6 years, operating from 9:30am to 12:30pm five days per week, 38 weeks per year.
Staffing	There is a total of 3 adults employed within the service, all of whom work directly with the children. The registered provider is also available to work in the service if relief cover is required. All staff who work directly with the children hold the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) to a minimum Level 6 in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (Inspectorate) is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following: • Previous inspection history • Any information received in relation to the service Findings on inspection are based on: • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the

	registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non -compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced. 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.
Acknowledgments	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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,
 - (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-
- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
 - (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
 - (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
 - (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2)
- The staff files for the registered provider and one of the three staff employed had been reviewed on the services most recent inspection, therefore were not reviewed upon this inspection.
- Of the two staff files reviewed the following were available or not required:
- (a) (b)
- Two written validated references from a past employer in particular the most recent employer for one adult.
- One written validated reference from a past employer for one adult.
- One written validated reference from a reputable source for one adult.

	(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for two adults. (d) International police vetting was required and available for one adult who had resided outside of the State for a period greater than six months as an adult. (4) Evidence of the completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework was available for two adults.
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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. (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.	
Compliance information	(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children during the inspection. (2) The children in attendance on the day of inspection were aged between 3 years 4 months to 4 years 4 months. There were 5 children in total attending the service being supervised by 2 adults. The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance information

The preschool playroom was laid out in a variety of designated areas, with adequate and suitable furniture for the ages and developmental stages of the children in attendance.

The play materials and resources were laid out on low level shelving units, which were easily accessible to children.

The tables and chairs available for the children's use were suitable for the ages and ability of the children in attendance.

There was a large variety of equipment available which supported a variety of play opportunities in both small and larger groups.

Some designated play areas within the room included an area for the rolling snack time, a creative area, sand play tray, dressing up area, a home corner and play shop area. Floor play toys, construction items, small world houses, garages and people were observed to be a popular choice on the day of inspection.

There was an area for jigsaw play, which was next to a soft cosy area for children to sit and read books.

Outdoor play is facilitated by the service through using the community centres sports field. Ride on trucks, bikes and footballs are available for the children's use. The indoor community sports hall is used by the service during inclement weather conditions.

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.

Compliance information	GENERAL SAFETY: • Upon the inspectors arrival to the preschool service the door was locked which prevented unauthorised access, or a child leaving the service unsupervised. • The fire exits remained free from obstruction throughout the inspection. • The floor covering was presented in a safe and clean manner, with no trip hazards observed. • Storage areas were inaccessible to the preschool children. • Cleaning products were stored out of the children's reach. • Equipment and resources available to the children was observed to be clean and in good condition. • The children attending, the service were adequately supervised throughout the inspection process. INFECTION CONTROL: • Warm running water, pedal bins, hand soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation. • Handwashing practises were observed to take place after messy play, after using the toilet, and before and after snack time. • The designated rolling snack area was cleaned before children had their snack. The children were served their snacks of choice on plastic plates. • The preschool environment was presented in a clean and hygienic manner with cleaning schedules in place and up to date.
Non compliance information	General safety: 1. The radiators in the preschool room had a temperature reading that exceeded 50°C posing a risk to children. It is acknowledged that when the

	inspector brought this to the attention of the person in charge on the day of inspection, they adjusted the heating controls on the radiator. 2. The temperature of the preschool room on the day of the inspection exceeded the recommended temperature of 18-22°C. It is acknowledged that the person in charge opened the two openable windows when the temperature exceeded 22°C.
Corrective & preventive action submitted by the registered provider	<u>Corrective and preventive action</u> 1. Corrective action was taken on the day, and this will be maintained. Heating controls will remain at adjusted level. 2. Temperature was corrected on the day. Room thermometer fitted. <u>Supporting documentation submitted</u> Photographs of the heating controls and the room temperature maintained between the required 18°C to 22°C.
Summary comment	The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23, listed at number 1 and 2 above have been adequately addressed.

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.

Compliance information	(1) (a) A written record was available detailing the fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on 16 September 2022.
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(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment was due the next service in 2022, and the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced on 20 July 2022.

(4)

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed on the wall next to the entrance door within the preschool room.