

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015DS117

**Name of Service** Little Harvard Child Care Ltd

**Address of Service:** Taylors Hill, College Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, Co. Dublin, D16 P599

**Email Address:** gov@littlehardvard.ie

**Name of Registered Provider:** James Hargrave

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** Increase in number of children from 40 to 47. Children will be accommodated in existing rooms.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 47

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in Number of Children – from 40 to 47 children

**Registered change:** Change in Number of Children from 40 to 47 children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	3	0	0	7	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** R. Brien

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin D08 X01F.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 47 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2024

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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>	This service is one of nineteen private early years services operated by the registered provider. The service offers full day care, part time and sessional care for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service also participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates between 07:00 and 18:30, Monday to Friday.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a purpose-built facility in a residential area of Rathfarnham, South Dublin. There are three care rooms in the main building used for the early years service and a cabin to the side of the main building which is used for a school-age service. The service has a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the building.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are eight adults currently employed to work in the service including the designated person in charge. Seven adults work directly in the early years service.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person 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 requirement has been met.

The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children from forty to forty-seven across the three existing care rooms as follows:

The Preschool room will accommodate twenty-four children on a full day care basis with three staff.

The Toddler room will accommodate twelve children on a full day care basis with two staff.

The ECCE room will accommodate eleven children on a sessional basis with one staff member.

Seven adults are currently employed to work directly with children. The person in charge is available to provide cover as needed.

The registered provider demonstrated an awareness of the minimum staffing requirements required for the increase in number of children.

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.
- (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

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The care rooms are bright and are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving are available containing materials for manipulative, creative, sensory, imaginative and challenging play. These include designated interest areas including home corners, library areas, art, construction and sensory play areas, all accessible to the children at their level.

(b)

The care rooms have suitable and comfortable rest areas available which contain soft seating and cushions where children can rest or take a break from activities. Sleep mats are available for children over 2 years of age attending on a full day care basis who may require sleep or rest.

(3)(a)

There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area available on the premises which has artificial grass surfacing. A section of the outdoor area has a canopy. Suitable play equipment and materials are available including an outdoor kitchen, ride-on toys and a slide. The outdoor area was well maintained, and no hazards were observed. A perimeter fence surrounds the entire outdoor area and two gates which lead to areas outside of the premises are secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child leaving unsupervised.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 requirement has been met.

A kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of food and drinks for children. The service provides breakfast on arrival, a morning and afternoon snack and a hot meal during the day. Meals are prepared on site by staff.

A four-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied, nutritious food is provided. Drinking water is available on the premises. A healthy eating policy is in place. Perishable foods will be stored in the refrigerator.

The person in charge confirmed that alternative meals/snacks are available if required and that additional snacks are available outside of scheduled mealtimes.

### 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.

- The external gate is secured with a keypad to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The gate in the outdoor area is suitably secured.
- The emergency exit door is unobstructed to allow for safe evacuation.
- There are no loose cables or cords that could pose a risk of injury.
- An infection control policy is in place to inform practice.
- There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary areas and in the care rooms.
- Cleaning schedules are in place.
- Cleaning materials are stored safely.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## 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
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Certification is available for two staff confirming they have current First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service. It is clearly identifiable and easily accessible.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The person in charge stated that fire drills are carried out on a monthly basis.

(b)

There is a record available relating to the number and type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed conspicuously in the care rooms and the fire assembly point was identified.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

Evidence of insurance for the proposed number of children was available. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the service. Registration of the service is contingent on the registered provider's 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) The service is a single storey purpose-built facility. The person in charge confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The registered provider has taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. The external gates were locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.
- (c) The care rooms were adequately lit, heated and ventilated. There was a good level of natural lighting in the care rooms with artificial lighting available as required. Blinds have been fitted to control light levels when required in care rooms.  
  
Windows can be opened to provide natural ventilation. The service has thermostatically controlled electric heating and the room temperatures were maintained between 18-22°C. The sanitary facilities were ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation.
- (d) The premises and surrounding environment were clean and maintained as required. A cleaning schedule was in place and cleaning equipment was available in the care room.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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There are five toilets and five wash hand basins available for children. There is one nappy changing unit which provides nappy changing facilities for 11 children. There is one toilet and wash hand basin available for adults. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in all hand wash sinks.

### 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 clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2)(3)(4)(a)(b)

There was sufficient clear floor space to accommodate the proposed number of 47 children in respect of their age range.

Room Name	Proposed number of children and type of service	Proposed age of children	Space available m <sup>2</sup>
Preschool Room	24 full day care	2-6 years	57.25m <sup>2</sup>
Toddlers	12 full day care	2-3 years	31.2m <sup>2</sup>
ECCE Room	11 sessional care	2-6 years	26.7m <sup>2</sup>