

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2022DR001

Name of Service Little Harvard Childcare Limited

Address of Service: 1 The Lodge, The Crescent, Scholarstown Wood, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Email Address: info@littleharvard.ie

Name of Registered Provider: James Hargreave

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

Proposed change: Increase the number of children from 70 to 77.

Proposed Number of Children: 77

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Number of Children from 70 to 77 (70 Full Day, Part-Time) children

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 70 to 77 (70 Full Day, Part-Time) children

Date of Inspection:	1	4	1	1	2	0	2	4
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: F Carty

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance
 The registered provider wishes to increase the numbers of children attending from 70 to 77 children in the service.

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 77 (70 Full Day, Part-Time)children

Date of Registration 13th December 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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	Little Harvard Childcare is an existing full day care, part time and sessional childcare service located in a residential area in Rathfarnam, Dublin 14. The registered provider is seeking to increase the numbers of children attending the service from 70 to 77 children daily. There is parking for cars located to the front of the building. The registered provider has the sole use of the building.
Premises	The premises are located in a purpose built premises on the ground floor of an apartment building and includes four playrooms and sanitary accommodation for children and adults. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. High-level heavy-duty fencing secure the perimeter of the outdoor area. The proposed additional children will be accommodated in all care rooms on a sessional basis.
Staffing	The service will be staffed by seven adults. There will be a manager who is available to assist in the care rooms when required. Certification was provided to confirm that adults had childcare qualifications at minimum level 5 on the National Framework of 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 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>
Acknowledgements	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. There is a designated person in charge and an adult currently working in the existing service will be 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)

An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of 77 pre-school children on a sessional basis aged between 2 years to 6 years between the hours of 9.00am and 12.00pm with seven adults always present. The ratios for the children attending on a part time and full daycare basis outside of these hours will be met.

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—

(c) 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 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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service includes four rooms which are currently in use for pre-school children. The registered provider proposes to provide a sessional service for an additional seven pre-school children in the existing care rooms as space requirements allow. All of the care rooms are bright, and the walls are decorated with colourful posters and children’s artwork. All care rooms 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 were available containing materials for creative and imaginative play. These included designated interest areas including a home corner, tabletop activities and small world play accessible to the children at their level. A rest area with books was available in each care room.</p> <p>(b) There are stackable beds available to the children attending the service aged over 2 years who require sleep. Additional suitable rest areas have been provided in all the care rooms.</p> <p>(2)(a) Two outdoor play areas are available. One is located to the rear of the premises; a smaller area is located to the side of the premises. The area to the rear contained a large climbing frame containing a slide, rope and climbing wall. A wobble bridge, sand table and a large, covered area with child sized furniture together with a number of ride on toys were available to the children. The smaller outdoor play area contained a large, covered area, child size furniture and large construction toys were available to the children. Artificial grass covered the entire ground areas of both outdoor areas.</p> <p>(3)(a) A perimeter fence surrounded both outdoor areas and gates which led to an area outside of the premises at each end of the building contained a keypad which only allowed authorised people gain access or leave the premises.</p>
-------------------------	--

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.

The service will provide all food for the children who attend on both a sessional, part time and full-time basis. All snacks and the main meal will be prepared in the onsite kitchen and the amount of food provided will depend upon the service the children avail of. The hot meal was prepared onsite and a four-week rolling menu was in place. Refrigerators were available to store perishable items. A healthy eating policy was available and contained information on acceptable foods and foods not permitted in the service.

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 doors at both the front entrance to the service had a lock system in place to secure the service against unauthorised access and to prevent unsupervised exit of pre-school children from the service. Children will be accepted into the service from the front entrance door and will be taken to the playroom by staff members during operational hours of the service. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from the front door after sessional hours by parents/guardians. The front door had a coded keypad entrance in place and could only be opened by authorised people and from the inside. There were locked gates to the side of the building.

All blind cords were out of reach of children. All toys and furniture were in good condition and free from pinch and crush points and sharp edges. The registered provider had sole use of both the building and the outdoor play area for the preschool service. There was built in storage facilities available for storage throughout the service. The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

Cleaning schedules were in place and the service was in a clean condition throughout.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There was evidence that two staff members had current certification in First Aid Responder. Evidence was provided to the inspector on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was provided in each care room. There was signage to indicate the location of first aid box. The first aid box was available to the children always attending 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment was available they were last serviced during January 2024. A maintenance record for smoke alarms confirmed that a maintenance service was conducted on the 22nd July 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted in the communal hallway. A fire assembly point was located to the rear of the property.

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.

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 77 children in daily attendance. Insurance for the service expires on the 27th March 2025.

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) There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The person in charge confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b) The heavy-duty floor covering throughout the rooms was well fitted and in a good state of repair and maintenance. Both the front and back exits to the building guarded against both unsupervised exit of children and unauthorised access to the building. The building was not used for any other purpose unrelated to childcare during operational hours of the service.

(c) The openable windows in the playroom which were located above child height ensured both adequate natural day lighting and ventilation in the care rooms. All ceiling light fittings in rooms were covered with shatterproof diffusers. Heating was provided with thermostatically controlled air to water heating system. The temperature recorded in the care rooms was between the recommended 18° Celsius and 22° Celsius.

(d) All walls and ceilings were finished with a washable paint and were smooth surfaced for easy cleaning purposes.

(e) There were seven toilets and wash hand basins located in the service for the pre-school children in daily attendance. The water supply to wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled. Mechanical ventilation was available in all sanitary facilities. There was one adult toilet and wash hand basin available in the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

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 as demonstrated below:

(2)

Room	Preschool 1	Preschool 2	Preschool 3	ECCE/SAC
Clear Floor Space	41.6 sqm	42.72 sqm	24.46 sqm	41.27 sqm
Proposed Age Range	2 – 3 years	3 – 4 years	2 Years	3 - 5 years
Maximum children on a sessional basis	22 children	23 children	13 children	22 children

The premises can accommodate a proposed number of 77 pre-school children on a sessional basis. The premises was designed to ensure that the required floor space for a maximum number of 77 pre-school children in the proposed age ranges attending on a sessional care basis in the Preschool 1,2 3 and ECCE rooms is met subject to the age ranges proposed for each room.

Outside of sessional hours the space ratios required for children attending on a part time and full day care basis will be adhered to.