

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2022DY005

Name of Service Little Harvard Childcare Limited

Address of Service: Blackwood Avenue, Santry, Dublin, D09 THT4

Email Address: gov@littleharvard.ie

Name of Registered Provider: James Hargrave

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

Proposed change: Increase the number of children cared for from 88 to 110.
Change in age profile from 1-6 years to 2-6 years

Proposed Number of Children: 110

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Full day care including part-time and sessional registration operating 7.00am-6.30pm.
110 (Max 90 Full day care/part-time)
Age range 2-6 years

Registered change: Change in number of children from 88 to 110 (Max 90 fully day/part-time)
Change in age profile from 1-6 years to 2-6 years

Date of Inspection: 1 6 0 9 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: C. Harte and T. Nelson

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate Area 1, 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5
The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park
Ballycoolin, Dublin 15

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional for 110 (Max 90 Full Day/Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	13 th October 2025

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 service currently provides full time, part-time and sessional care and education for up to 88 children from 1 to 6 years of ages. The service is registered to operate Monday to Friday 7.00am - 6.30pm.</p> <p>The proposed service will provide full time, part-time and sessional care and education for up to 90 children on a full day care basis and up to 110 children during sessional hours between 2 to 6 years of age. Management have advised only 3 rooms will be in operation to care for preschool children in the afternoon for a purposed 40 children attending full day care to allow for the operation of a school age service on the premises. The preschool service will operate Monday to Friday 7.30am - 6.30pm.</p>
Premises	The service operates from the ground floor of a purpose-built building which includes 6 care rooms, a kitchen, sanitary facilities and enclosed outdoor area located at the side of the building. The proposed increase in numbers is within the existing care rooms.
Staffing	The service employs 13 staff including the person in charge, a deputy person in charge, 10 staff to work directly with the children and 1 chef.
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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the general manger, regional manager, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The proposed service has a designated person in charge, and a named staff member is available 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:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children who attend the service. It is proposed that there will be 12 adults working directly with the children in the service.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1) (a) The proposed care rooms will provide adequate and suitable facilities for children to play indoors.

- The care rooms have defined areas of interest with thematically grouped resources.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences for the proposed age profile and number of children. • Toys and equipment are stored on low level shelving visible and accessible to the children. • Child sized table and chairs are available for children to engage in tabletop activities and mealtimes. • Furniture and equipment are well maintained, durable and easy to clean. <p>(b) There are adequate facilities for children to rest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are rest areas available in the care rooms suitable for the proposed age range of children, where they can take a break from activities. • There is an adequate number of sleep mats available for children aged over 2 who may require sleep during the day. • Individual bed linen will be available for children who require sleep during the day. <p>(2) (b) There is an outdoor play area available on the premises, which is fully enclosed, the surface of which is in synthetic material. Three of the care rooms have access to the outdoor area directly from a door in the room. A range of outdoor toys to facilitate physical play experiences for the proposed age range of children is available.</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:

The requirement is met.

- All meals for children attending full day care are provided by the service and prepared in the onsite kitchen.
- Three-week menu plans are available documenting that children will receive regular and varied meals.
- Children attending sessional care will have lunches provided by parents and refrigerated appropriately.
- Drinks will be available in the care rooms.
- The service has a healthy eating policy in place.

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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:

The requirement is met.

- The emergency exits are unobstructed.
- Liquid soap was hygienically dispensed.
- An ambient temperature between 18-22°C was maintained on the day of inspection.
- Cleaning products are stored out of children’s reach.
- Flexes are appropriately secured out of children’s reach.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C is available.
- A morning safety checklist template is available.
- Daily and weekly cleaning schedule templates are available.

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 is met.

- (1) Evidence is available that three staff members are trained in First Aid Response Level.
- (2) (a) A suitably equipped first box is stored on the premises.
- (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and available.

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.*

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service. (b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises was maintained on the 30 November 2024, and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 03 September 2025.</p> <p>(4) Notices of procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency are displayed throughout the service.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>An insurance certificate was submitted to the registration office prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(a) The premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure.</p> <p>(b) The entrance door to the service is secured and access is managed by staff and the use of an electronic keypad lock system.</p> <p>(c)</p>
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- Windows provide natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.
- Lighting is recessed into the ceiling and fitted with covers.
- Care rooms are fitted with air-conditioning and have openable windows. Mechanical ventilation is present in the sanitary areas.

(d) The rooms are clean and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the premises.

(e) There is an adequate and suitable number of sanitary facilities available for the proposed age range and number of children in service as outlined below.

Number of nappy changing units	Number of toilets	Number of handwash basins
11	12	12

There is an additional sink present in each of the care rooms as part of the kitchenette units.

There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation available for the proposed number of staff. A minimum of one toilet and one wash hand basin is required for every 8 staff.

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:

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of up to 110 children to attend the purposed pre-school service on a sessional basis. A total of 219.2m² is available.

(2) The amount of clear floor space is demonstrated below.

Room name	Age group	Service provision	Room size
Preschool 4	2 years 8 months - 6 years	Sessional	29.2m ²

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	Preschool 3	2 years 8 months - 6 years	Sessional Full Day Care	27.1m ²
	Preschool 1	2 years 8 months - 6 years	Sessional Full Day Care	40.7m ²
	Preschool 2	2 years 8 months - 6 years	Sessional Full Day Care	44.5m ²
	Preschool 5	2 years 8 months - 6 years	Sessional	39.5m ²
	Preschool 6	2 years 8 months - 6 years	Sessional	38.2m ²
<p>*The minimum space requirement for sessional care is 1.181m²</p> <p>Above is sufficient for 110 children attending on a sessional basis as described above. The space of six rooms allows for 90 children to attend on a full day care basis for the purposed age range however, service management has advised only 3 rooms will be in operation to care for preschool children in the afternoon.</p>				