

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022WW005
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Name of Service:	Little Harvard Childcare Limited
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Address of Service:	Merrymeeting Centre, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A67V9K5
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Name of Registered Provider:	James Hargrave
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/03/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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

This service is located in a purpose- built premises at the rear of a small mixed purpose business and residential area in Rathnew in County Wicklow. There are three rooms available to accommodate pre-school children. At present one of these rooms is in use. Currently sessional care is provided for 21 pre-school children who are between 2 years and 6 years of age. The service operates from 09.30 to 12.30, for 38 weeks of the year. A school aged service is available on the premises in the afternoons and during school holidays. The outdoor play area for the service is sited at the front of the premises and car parking is provided at the front of the building.

Staffing

At present the designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge are employed. The two staff employed have childcare qualifications at least at level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years 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

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of the child. The 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, deputy person in charge, regional manager 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 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 is on the premises.

(2) The files for the two staff members were inspected.

(a)&(b) Four validated past employer references were available for two adults.

(c) Completed Garda vetting was available for two adults employed.

(d) There was no evidence that either staff member had lived in another state for more than six months as an adult.

(4) Evidence was available to confirm that the two adults held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) There were two adults present working directly with sixteen pre-school children throughout the period of the inspection.

(3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the morning.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

(1) (a)

Basic Needs of Children

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service. The food choices provided by parents for their child were nutritious. Water was freely available in the preschool to the children throughout the morning. Snack time was observed to be a relaxed and sociable experience for the children and the staff sat with the children and chatted with them during this time. Sufficient time was allowed for eating and the

children were not rushed. Children enjoyed freedom of movement in the pre-school room and outside. Children's behaviour was managed positively by the staff caring for them and children were praised and encouraged throughout the morning. Children were observed washing their hands before snack, following sand and messy play and toilet use.

Supporting Relationships around Children

The atmosphere in the pre-school was happy, relaxed, friendly and child centred. Staff members were respectful and kind towards the children in their care and each child was listened to and given time to chat and express their thoughts and feelings. An observation board was used by staff to write notes during the session regarding the children in their care so as this could guide their planning and help understand the individual child. Adults were observed assisting the children playing with playdough, doing puzzles, and later planting bulbs in the outdoor area during the inspection. Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection time. The service uses email to update parents regarding the service.

Physical and Material Environment.

The pre-school room was equipped with low level tables and chairs and low-level shelving units with toys and materials easily accessible to the children. The room had defined areas of interest and were equipped and presented to create interesting areas for the children to engage in child led play appropriate to their stage of development. Interest areas included a home corner and play kitchen, dress-up and construction areas, with plenty of associative equipment to extend children's imaginative play. Children were observed playing in the construction area and taking part in table-top activities such as puzzles, of shape and colour sorter toys, peg boards and colouring. During the session some children used the rest area to take a break from activities and sit with a book for a little while. The outdoor play equipment included sand and water play, see-saw, balance bike, balls, and a planting area.