

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023KE002
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Name of Service:	Little Harvard Ltd.
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Address of Service:	The Way, Ledwill Park, Kilcock, Co. Kildare W23 X2IV
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Email Address:	gov@littleharvard.ie; adminledwill@littleharvard.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	James Hargrave
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type:	Full Day Care, Part-time, Sessional
Proposed Number of Children:	132 children aged 1-6 years.
Outcome of the F06 Inspection	The service proposes to open a full day care service; age profile 1-6 years; capacity 132 children; open for 51 weeks from 7:00am – 18:30 hours.
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 132 Children

Dates of Inspection: Day 1	3	0	0	5	2	0	2	3
Day 2	3	1	0	5	2	0	2	3

Inspection Undertaken by:	T. Duignan (Day 1 and 2) and F. Maher (Day 2)
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 132 Children
Date of Registration:	6 th June 2023

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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).

Description of Service	The proposed private childcare facility, Little Harvard Childcare Ltd., aims to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care service for pre-school children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 7:00- 18:30 hours, Monday-Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 132 children when it is operating at full capacity.
Premises	The proposed premises are located in a purpose-built two-story building within a housing development on the outskirts of Kilcock, Co. Kildare. The accommodation consists of nine care rooms with adjoining sanitary facilities, a cot room, sanitary facilities for adults, a kitchen, staff rest and an office. A lift operates between the ground and first floor. Two secured play area are located to the front of the premises.
Staffing	It is proposed that sixteen adults will work in the service.
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 four 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 the registering application. 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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, area manager and person in charge who were present on the days 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 registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if 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 stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending 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—*

- (a) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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 service comprises of nine pre-school rooms. The rooms are bright, spacious, and planned to cater for the different age ranges of children who will be attending in each room.

Interest areas included library and rest area, home corner, art and craft, small world materials, sensorial materials, puzzles /jigsaws; the areas were equipped with a range of suitable toys and pre-school materials for the different age ranges including a selection of tabletop and manipulative play materials.

The outdoor play areas were equipped with a wooden climbing frame with a slide and climbing rope wall, a wooden balance beam structure, chairs and tables, smaller plastic activity frames for younger children, swing slide unit for young children, seesaws, a water wall, ride on play equipment and balls. There was a partially covered area in the two outdoor areas which enabled them to be used throughout the year particularly during inclement weather.

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	<p>(b) The rest areas in each pre-school room were cosy and comfortable. They consisted of large wipeable floor mats; child sized comfortable soft sofas placed beside the library areas in each of the care rooms. They were available for any child wishing to take a break from activities and rest.</p> <p>A designated sleep room with 16 cots is available for preschool children aged 1-2 years requiring sleep. There are 12 low level beds available for children aged over 2 years requiring sleep during the day.</p> <p>(2)(a) Two spacious outdoor play areas covered in outdoor grass carpet to enable use throughout the year have been provided to the side of the premises.</p> <p>The perimeter area at the rear of the premises is enclosed by a high wall. The side and front of the premises is enclosed by a double metal boundary fence with shrubbery between and gated access. The gates are secured with a bolt mechanism.</p>
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service. A three-week menu is displayed in the entrance hall. A cook will be employed to prepare food daily. Drinking water is available in each of the care rooms. A fridge is available in each care room for the storage of food.

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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 entrance door to the premises controls entry to the service. It is electronically secured with a keypad access to prevent unauthorised entrance and children from exiting unsupervised.

A boundary wall is located at the rear of the premises. A double metal boundary fence with shrubbery in between secures the sides and front of the premises including the two outdoor play areas at the front of the premises.

The internal pre-school room doors are secured by thumb turn locks.

Cleaning agents are safely stored out of the reach of preschool children. The low-level cupboards and fridges in each care room have child safe door locks fitted.

There are resource cupboards for storage of equipment in the proposed care rooms.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap, paper hand towels and air dryers are available for hygienic hand washing and drying, with foot pedal operated bins in the care rooms for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues and a separate foot pedal operated bin for the disposal of soiled nappies.

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) Persons are trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and will be immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children on the ground floor and first floor. They were observed to be stored in a conspicuous position in these areas.

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 firefighting 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 is met.

(1)

(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills.

(b) There was a record available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm, which was 29 May and 12 May 2023, respectively.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the care room.

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A fire assembly point had clear signage displayed in the outdoor area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 132 children. The insurance cover was valid from 14 June 2023 until 28 March 2024.

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 is met.

(a) Visually, the proposed premises is a new building and in a state of good repair.

(b) The proposed care rooms are secured from unauthorised entry by secured gates and main entrance to the premises is controlled by staff members. There is thumb turn locks on all internal doors.

(c) There are openable windows in the nine proposed care rooms and the cot room providing natural daylight and ventilation. A combination of covered strip lights and recessed lights with protective coverings are in the all-care rooms to provide additional artificial lighting.

Blinds are available in the sleep room to dim the light levels.

The care rooms and sanitary areas are heated by an air to water system throughout the service that is thermostatically controlled. Air conditioning units are present in each care room to either boost or reduce the environmental temperature if needed.

A mechanical ventilation system is present in each sanitary area to ensure that the air is circulated in these enclosed areas.

(d) Daily cleaning schedules are in place for the care rooms and sanitary areas and the service.

(e)

There are twenty sanitary areas in the service.

Two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children’s use in the sanitary area located in each of the nine care rooms.

A wall mounted pull down nappy changing unit is provided in one of the sanitary areas in all the care rooms and the cot room.

An additional two toilets and two wash hand basin facilities are available for staff members in the service.

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).*

(5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1), (2)</p> <p>There is adequate space available to accommodate the proposed number of 132 pre-school children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Toddler room (1st room RHS, ground floor)</u> A total clear floor space of 31m² is available in the proposed care room for the maximum daily attendance of 13 pre-school children ranging in age from 2-3 years on a full day care or part-time basis. 2. <u>Wobbler 1 room (2nd room RHS, ground floor)</u> A total clear floor space of 25.4m² is available in the proposed care room for the maximum daily attendance of 9 pre-school children ranging in age from 1-2 years on a full day care or part-time basis. 3. <u>Wobbler 2 room (4th room RHS, ground floor)</u> A total clear floor space of 31m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 11 pre-school children ranging in age from 1-2 years on a full day care or part-time basis. 4. <u>Preschool 1 room (5th room RHS, ground floor)</u> A total clear floor space of 43m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 22 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme or 18 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis. 5. <u>Preschool 2 room (5th room RHS, ground floor)</u> A total clear floor space of 41m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 22 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education
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(ECCE) Scheme or 18 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

6. **Toddler 2 room (1st room RHS, first floor)**

A total clear floor space of 34m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance 14 pre-school children ranging in age from 2-3 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

7. **ECCE/Afterschool room (2nd room RHS, first floor)**

A total clear floor space of 29m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 16 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme or 12 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

8. **ECCE/ Afterschool room (3rd room RHS, first floor)**

A total clear floor space of 42m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 22 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme or 18 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

9. **ECCE/ Afterschool room (2nd room RHS, first floor)**

A total clear floor space of 31m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 17 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme or 13 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

10. **Cot room (3rd room RHS, ground floor)**

A total clear floor space of 32m² is available in the proposed sleep room.