

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



**Tusla I.D:** TU2024KE002

**Name of Service:** Little Harvard Childcare Ltd.

**Address of Service:** The Park, Belin Woods, Newbridge, Co. Kildare W12 FR63

**Email Address:** [gov@littleharvard.ie](mailto:gov@littleharvard.ie)

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** James Hargrave

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed service type:** Full Day Care

**Proposed Number of Children:** 120

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
 A maximum number of 120 children, 1-6 years of age, as proposed by the registered provider, may be accommodated. Planning permission condition states: 'the number of children to be accommodated in the creche/after school childcare shall not exceed 168 during the approved hours of operation in any one day'.

**Registered service:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 120 Children

**Date of Inspection:** 0 6 0 2 2 0 2 4

**Inspection Undertaken by:** F. Maher, T. Duignan

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Child and Family Agency, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W.

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### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 120 Children
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	13th February 2024

### 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>	The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care to children from 1-6 years of age. The service is proposing to accommodate 120 pre-school children. The proposed hours of operation are from 07.00am to 18.30pm for 51 weeks of the year.
<b>Premises</b>	The proposed premises is a purpose-built facility located in a new housing development in a residential estate on the outskirts of Newbridge Co. Kildare. There are nine pre-school rooms, one cot room, a kitchen, office, sanitary facilities and storage space provided. A staff room is located in a standalone modular unit to the rear of the premises. Five pre-school rooms will be operational when the service opens with the remaining rooms opening on a phased basis as further staff are recruited to facilitate further enrolments.  There is an enclosed outdoor space that wraps around the premises and is divided into three defined areas.
<b>Staffing</b>	The proposed registered provider has appointed a manager for the service and a designated person to deputise as required. It is proposed that ten/twelve childcare staff and one chef will commence working in the service upon opening.  All proposed childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children will hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
<b>Methodology</b>	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

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	<p>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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, management team and person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

### 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 has been met.

(1) (a)

There is a designated person in charge and a named person 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 has been met.

(1)

The proposed registered provider and management team has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Upon opening, ten adults are proposed to work directly with the children attending the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained, this number may increase as further enrolments are processed. The manager and deputy manager of the service will be supernumerary and available to oversee the management of the service and provide relief cover as necessary.

### 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 has been met.

(1)(a)

The service comprises of nine pre-school rooms which are bright and spacious. Two pre-school rooms are located in the two story part of the property to the front of the premises, one pre-school room on the first floor and one on the ground floor. The remaining seven pre-school rooms are located on the ground floor to the right of the main entrance lobby. All pre-school rooms have been constructively planned and laid out to cater for the needs of children who will be attending in each room. Each room has a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. There are clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, dress up, sensory play, small world and rest areas with libraries. A variety of play and learning

materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, blocks, cars, dolls, an assortment of props for the interest areas and plenty of art and craft materials. The younger care rooms were equipped with climbing cushions, interactive toys, push/pull equipment, shape sorters and stacking toys, mirrors, sensorial equipment, wooden jigsaws and puzzles, water mats and a variety of suitable art and craft materials to cater for the younger age groups.

(b)

One cot room with thirteen standard cots is provided for any child less than two years of age requiring sleep in a cot. Stackable beds and sleep mats are available for children over 2 years of age requiring a period of sleep when attending on a full day or part time basis. Suitable rest areas with child sized couches are provided in each room and a comfortable couch is provided in the younger care room to enable staff members to sit comfortably to nurse/nurture the younger children.

(2)(a)

There is an enclosed outdoor area provided on the premises. The area has an artificial grass covering and is divided into three distinct areas with wooden fencing and gates in between. Suitable play equipment is available including, ride on equipment, climbing frames with slides, a wooden balance beam frame, child sized tables and chairs and a small activity set with swing and slide is located in the play area that will be used by the toddlers/wobblers. A large, covered area is located in one of the play areas and is equipped with various shaped wall mirrors and puzzles. There is plenty of space for children to run and play and one area has been marked out as a mini football pitch with goals. The area is enclosed by a high-level brick wall and there is one high-level wooden gate to the rear. The gate is secured with a slide bolt locking mechanism on the inside to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and to restrict unauthorised access. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.

**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.*

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<b>Requirement met:</b>	The registered provider has employed one chef and there are facilities available for the provision of adequate food and drink for children. A four-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied nutritious food will be provided. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>Access to the pre-school service will be electronically controlled by staff at the main entrance to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The internal doors from the entrance lobby to both sides of the property where the pre-school rooms are located, have keypad systems in place with electromagnetic release mechanisms. The outdoor area is suitably secured with a perimeter wall and wooden gate secured on the inside. All windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors and visibility stickers are in place on the full-length glass doors and windows. All cupboards are fitted with safety catches.</p> <p>There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials and there is sufficient storage space under the stairs for large miscellaneous items and a staff room for staff belongings. All emergency exits are clear.</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and electric hand dryers are available in the sanitary and nappy changing accommodation for hygienic hand washing and drying. Paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers are available in each cubicle containing nappy changing facilities and at the sinks in the care rooms.</p> <p>Foot pedal operated bins are located in the sanitary areas for the disposal of used nappies and in each pre-school room for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel, tissues and waste.</p> <p>Refrigerators are provided in each pre-school room for any perishable food items.</p>
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A pest control contract is in place for the premises.

The premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and detailed cleaning schedules are in place for all room environments.

### 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)

Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) training, is available for the named person in charge.

(2)(a)(b)

Suitably equipped first aid bags are available and accessible to children at all times; these are stored in conspicuous positions in all areas of 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 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 has been met.

(1)(a)

Documentation is available to record monthly fire drills.

(b)

The firefighting equipment has been recently installed and dated 30 January 2024 and the fire/smoke alarm system has been commissioned with supporting documentation dated 5 January 2024.

(4)

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Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously and the fire assembly points are identified.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.  
Insurance was submitted to the Registration Office covering a maximum of 164 children on a Full Day Care basis, valid until 27/03/24.

### 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:

(a)  
The proposed premises has been recently built and decorated and visually is in a state of good repair.

(b)  
The entrance/exit doors to the premises are electronically secure and will be controlled by staff to prevent unauthorised access to the service and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area is surrounded by a high brick wall. There is a high-level wooden gate to the rear of the premises which is secured with a slide bolt locking mechanism on the inside preventing unauthorised access to the outdoor play area.

(c)  
The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large windows and glass doors in all childcare rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from fluorescent strip lights in each pre-school room. Window coverings are in place in the sleep room to support a dimmed environment for the comfort of sleeping children.

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There are openable windows and doors in each pre-school room. A mechanical extraction/ ventilation system has been installed for the simultaneous ventilation of the sanitary and nappy changing areas.

An integrated air management system provides air-conditioning and/or heat to all pre-school rooms and the sleep room. This system can be regulated by the staff members from wall mounted control panels in each room. Environmental room temperatures were maintained between the recommended 18-22°Celsius and between 16-20°Celsius in the sleep room.

(d)

Daily cleaning schedules are in place for all pre-school room environments and sanitary areas.

(e)

The sanitary facilities provided in the service include:

- 20 toilets and 20 wash hand basins designated for children's use., 2 toilet cubicles are located in each room of the service including the sleep room.
- 10 wall mounted nappy changing units are located in one toilet cubicle in each of the 9 pre-school rooms and in one of the sleep room toilet cubicles.
- 2 disability access toilets with 2 wash hand basins are available in the service and are currently designated for adult use; these are located on the first floor and ground floor landing of the two storey building.

### 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.*
- (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).*

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<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1),(2)</p> <p>Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Room</th> <th style="text-align: left;">1<sup>st</sup> room RHS main corridor</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</th> <th style="text-align: right;">43.7 m<sup>2</sup></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">2<sup>nd</sup> room RHS main corridor</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">42.1 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3<sup>rd</sup> room RHS main corridor</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">42.6 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">4<sup>th</sup> room RHS main corridor</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">33.6 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">1<sup>st</sup> room LHS main corridor</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">36.7 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">2<sup>nd</sup> room LHS main corridor</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">3<sup>rd</sup> room LHS main corridor</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27.4 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Upstairs room (House)</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">39.5 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Room</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Downstairs room (House)</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Clear floor space</td> <td style="text-align: right;">41.1 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Of note, no more than 20 children (who are not sleeping) shall be accommodated on the first floor of the property to maintain compliance with the issued fire safety certificate conditions.</p> <p>(4)(a)(b)</p> <p>The required floor space for 120 pre-school children in the proposed age range, 1-6 years old, attending the service is met.</p>			Room	1 <sup>st</sup> room RHS main corridor	Clear floor space	43.7 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	2 <sup>nd</sup> room RHS main corridor	Clear floor space	42.1 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	3 <sup>rd</sup> room RHS main corridor	Clear floor space	42.6 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	4 <sup>th</sup> room RHS main corridor	Clear floor space	33.6 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	1 <sup>st</sup> room LHS main corridor	Clear floor space	36.7 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	2 <sup>nd</sup> room LHS main corridor	Clear floor space	27 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	3 <sup>rd</sup> room LHS main corridor	Clear floor space	27.4 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	Upstairs room (House)	Clear floor space	39.5 m <sup>2</sup>	Room	Downstairs room (House)	Clear floor space	41.1 m <sup>2</sup>
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