

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024WW002
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Name of Service:	Little Harvard Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, A63 A6N6
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Email Address:	admingreystones@littleharvard.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	James Hargrave
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Full Daycare, Part time care and Sessional service
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Proposed Number of Children:	148
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection:	Register as Full Day Care, Part-time and Sessional service to cater for a maximum of 139 children aged 1-6 years. Hours of operation: 7am to 18.30pm.
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 139 Children
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Date of Inspection:	1	6	0	4	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	M. Condon & H Bourke
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
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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 139 Children
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Date of Registration:	1 st May 2024
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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	<p>Little Harvard Childcare is a new service located in a residential area in Greystones Co Wicklow. This registered provider presently operates 18 services in the east of the country.</p> <p>The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care for pre-school children aged one to six years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 07.30- 18.30, and it will operate for 51 weeks of the year.</p> <p>It is proposed that the service will accommodate a maximum number of 145 children at any one time across seven care rooms. A Wobbler room, two Toddler rooms and a Pre-school room will be located on the ground floor, while on the first floor there will be three Pre-school rooms.</p> <p>An additional room within the building will be utilised for childcare at a future date, but is not included in this Fit for purpose inspection.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises is purpose built as part of a new housing complex. The service is located in a two-storey standalone building and comprises of 8 play rooms, one sleep room, sanitary accommodation for both children and adults, a kitchen, staff room, storage rooms, an office and an entrance hallway. The registered provider confirmed that a one care room (room number 10) on the premises will not be in use and therefore is not included in this inspection. The outdoor play area for the service is sited at the back of the premises and car parking is provided at the front of the building.</p>
Staffing	<p>At present the designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge are employed. Future staffing will depend on the number of children attending and their ages. All staff will have childcare qualifications at least at level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
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</p>

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	<p>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	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider 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) A proposed person in charge, and deputy person are available to commence employment.

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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) It is acknowledged that the person in charge is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the pre-school children in the service. The staffing complement will increase depending on the number of children present and their ages.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

It is proposed that seven care rooms will be in use.

All care rooms are bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending in each room.

Play equipment in all rooms was located on open low-level shelving for easy access by pre-school children. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all care rooms for table-top activities.

The wobbler room was equipped with play equipment in areas of interest which included a home corner areas, puzzles, animal and small world areas, sensory toys, transport toys, a library area and an art area. Several soft mats were available for children to sit comfortably to engage in floor play.

The toddler rooms were equipped with play equipment in areas of interest which included a home corner areas, playhouse, puzzles, animal and small world areas, sensory toys, transport toys, a library area and an art area.

The pre-school rooms room were equipped with play and work equipment in areas of interest which included imaginative play, dress-up, construction play, a home corner, a playhouse, table-top toys, sand play, transport, and an art area.

The outdoor play area which was covered with artificial grass surface was located at the rear of the premises. Easy access to the outdoor area was available from the rooms on the ground floor via double doors from each of their rooms. The pre-school rooms located on the first floor accessed the garden space on the ground floor using a separate stairway that led directly to the side of the building and via a gate into the outdoor area. In addition to this the three rooms on the first floor had access to a roof space which had an artificial grass surface.

The outdoor areas were found to be suitable, safe and secure.

Age-appropriate play equipment was available which included slides, climbing frame, sand play, see-saws, play kitchen, balls and basketball hoop in the play area on the ground floor. It is envisioned that the pre-school children attending the first floor rooms will take the toys and equipment from their rooms to use outdoors.

A cleaning schedule was in place to clean toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors.

(1)(b)

Wobbler Sleep Room

Eight standard cots and two waterproof mattresses were available on site in a designated sleep room. It is envisioned that 10 children will attend this room and will sleep at a designated time, however individual sleep needs can be accommodated.

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	<p>Proof of payment for a further two standard cots and eight waterproof mattresses has been received by the inspector.</p> <p><u>Toddler rooms</u></p> <p>Forty-two stackable low beds were available for children attending the toddler room to sleep in their care room at a designated time or on demand if needed in their room while other children engage in activities.</p> <p>Low level floor mats and cushions were provided in all rooms for pre-school children to rest and opt out of activities.</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 has been met.

Parents are asked to provide all snacks for their child attending on a sessional basis. Breakfast, hot lunches and snacks will be provided to children attending on part-time and full day care hours, in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

All meals are prepared on site and a full-time chef will be employed in the service. A three-week menu is available in the kitchen. Portable water will be available for children in all care rooms.

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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 has been met.

- The front door entrance is locked with a security code, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur. Indoors there are three further doors to access the care room areas, each with its separate codes.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage is available for children’s belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.
- A fridge is available in the kitchen for the storage of food. Each room has a smaller fridge for the storage of food for children attending the care room.
- A cleaning schedule for rooms, sanitary areas, toys and equipment was available.
- The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel, warm water was available in all sanitary areas as well as foot pedal bins for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- The pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodations are ventilated by mechanical ventilation.
- There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste.

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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. The registered provider is aware that a person trained in first aid must be at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

The proposed person in charge has completed Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) training which expires in February 2025. It is acknowledged that the proposed deputy person in charge is booked to complete a re-fresher FAR course later this month.

(2) Each floor had a large fully equipped first aid box available which was easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position. In addition, each room had a small first aid kit 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A method to record in writing each fire drills completed on a monthly basis in the service was available.

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	<p>(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The fire-fighting equipment and the fire detection system were commissioned in October 2022.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the care rooms throughout the service. Two fire assembly points are identified by signage, one is located to the front of the building and a second is located in the garden area.</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:

This requirement has been met.
The insurance certificate was available and covers 148 children. It has an expiry date of 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 partially met.

(a)The premises appeared to be adequately maintained.

(b)The door at street level leading to the premises and the internal entrance doors leading into the care rooms of the service were kept secured at all times during the inspection.

(c)

Lighting

All light fittings throughout the service were flush with ceiling tiles and covered with shatterproof diffusers. The premises were adequately lit by means of natural lighting which was supplemented by artificial lighting. In all of the seven care rooms large windows and double patio doors provided natural light.

Heating

The service had a dual electrically operated heat and air conditioning system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

Ventilation

Ventilation was predominantly provided by means of openable windows, doors and trickle vents. All sanitary areas had mechanical ventilation systems. All windows were fitted with opening devices.

(d)

The freshly painted walls, ceiling tiles and floors finished with a heavy-duty lino were well maintained. A cleaning store off the hallways on both floors provided a suitable location for storage of cleaning equipment and chemicals in a locked area inaccessible to preschool children. A suitable location for the storage of refuse and waste was provided at the side of the premises. The services of a pest control contract were confirmed.

(e) Sanitary Facilities

Adequate and suitable sanitary areas were available for the children and adults in the service.

A total of 7 nappy changing areas, 14 toilets and 14 sinks were available in 7 sanitary areas available for the children and located off their respective rooms. Shelving was available in the sanitary areas for the storage of nappy changing/ toileting accessories.

Thematically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available in all sanitary areas and at the wash hand basins.

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) The service has adequate clear floor space for 132 of pre-school children to attend the service as outlined below.

(2) It is proposed that all children attending the creche will attend on full day care, part-time and sessional basis.

Toddler room (Room number1)

The clear floor space in the proposed toddler room measured **31.5 square metres**. This room has sufficient space to cater for the care needs of a proposed maximum of **12** children aged 2-3 years attending for full day care.

Toddler room (Room number2)

The clear floor space in the proposed Toddler room measured **39 square metres**. There is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of a maximum of **12** children.

Pre-school Room (Room number 3)

The clear floor space in the Pre-school_room measured **38.5 square metres**. The proposed number of children attending this room is 16 if attending full day care or 22 if attending on sessional basis., however there is sufficient room to cater for the care needs of **17** pre-school children aged from 3-6 years if attending full day care basis or **21** if attending on a sessional basis.

Wobbler room (Room 5)

The clear floor space in the Wobbler Room measured **33.5 square metres**. This room has sufficient space to cater for the care needs of a proposed maximum of **10** children aged 1-2 years.

Pre-school Room (Room number 6)

The clear floor space in the Pre-school_room measured **40.25 square metres**. This room has sufficient space to cater for the care needs of a proposed maximum of **16** children aged 3-6 years attending on a full day care basis or **22** children if attending on a sessional basis.

ECCE Room (Room number 7)

The clear floor space in this pre-school_room measured **43.4 square metres**. There is sufficient space for the proposed **22** children, aged 3-6 years while attending on sessional basis.

It is envisioned that this room will accommodate school aged children in the afternoons.

Pre-school Room (Room number 8)

The clear floor space in this pre-school_room measured **38.4 square metres**. There is sufficient space for the proposed **17** children, aged 3-6 years attending this room on a full day care basis or **21** children attending on a sessional basis.

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Pre-school Room (Room number 9)

The clear floor space in this pre-school room measured **34 square metres**. There is insufficient space for the proposed 16 children, aged 3-6 years attending this room on a full day care basis or 21 children on a sessional basis.

There is sufficient space for **15** children of this age group attending on a full day care basis or **19** if attending on a sessional basis.

In total there is sufficient space for a maximum of 139 pre-school children.