

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024WW002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Harvard Childcare Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A63 A6N6
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	James Hargrave
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	24/07/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	36	PM	38
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mona Condon
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Little Harvard Childcare is a new service which opened in April 2024 in a residential area in Greystones Co Wicklow. The registered provider presently operates 18 services in the east of the country. The service is registered to provide full day care for pre-school children aged one to six years of age and the hours of operation are between 07.00- 18.30. The service can accommodate a maximum number of 139 children at any one time across seven care rooms. The service is located in a two-storey standalone building and comprises of eight play-rooms, one sleep room, sanitary accommodation for both children and adults, a kitchen, staff room, storage rooms, an office and an entrance hallway. 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.

On inspection four rooms were open with pre-school children attending: namely, Wobbler room, Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 on the ground floor and one Pre-school room on the first floor.

### Staffing

Presently there are eight childcare staff employed one of whom is the person-in-charge. A chef is also employed. The person in charge and the area manager were present and available to provide support in the rooms if needed.

### 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, health, welfare and development of child/ and safety. The inspection 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 area manager, person in charge, staff 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) The designated person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the Inspectors and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- There were nine staff members, one of whom was employed as a chef. These nine files were reviewed on the day of the inspection.
- (a)&(b) There were eighteen written and validated references for nine staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting Disclosures was available for nine staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for eight staff members who had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the eight staff members who worked directly with children had 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.

### 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children. There were 38 children attending the service being supervised by eight adults on the day of inspection.

(2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection.

(8)(a) There were more than two adults in the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed that there are at least two adults present at all times.

### 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 Infants and Children

- Healthy nutritious lunch and snacks in line with the healthy eating policy of the service were enjoyed by the children on the day of inspection. The children enjoyed chicken curry and rice for their main meal which was prepared and cooked on site. Staff sat with the children during mealtimes assisting the younger children and engaging the older children in conversation and encouraging them to participate.
- Drinking water was available for the children throughout the day. Younger children's nappies were changed as required and good engagement in conversation with the children was noted during this time. Older children used the toilet independently and assistance given if required.
- Sleep was facilitated for the younger children in a cot room and on low beds in one of the care rooms. Children were soothed to sleep and monitored every 10 minutes while sleeping by staff.
- The outdoor area was not used during the inspection as the weather was very wet. Records confirmed that the children have access to the large outdoor area daily.
- The staff were observed to be kind, caring and patient in their interactions with the children. It was noted that any child who became upset was quickly soothed and cared for by staff.

##### Supporting Relationships around Children

- The adults present were observed showing warmth and sensitivity towards all of the children in their care. Children were observed to be very comfortable with the adults present.
- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. It was stated that a verbal handover on the child's day occurred at collection time for each child. The service also communicated using alternative means such as the service electronic app, email, texting and phoning.

## Physical and Material Environment

- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving which allowed the children to select and replace items and materials of interest.
- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment available in the rooms. Equipment included Montessori equipment, construction, toy animals, puzzles and a library.
- There was evidence of the children's artwork on display in the rooms.
- A secure outdoor area with an artificial grass surface was located at the rear of the premises. Play equipment available include bikes, climbing frame, slides, play-house, sand play, and a toy kitchen area.
- The playrooms were spacious and warm and laid out to meet the needs of the children. An ambient temperature of 18.5°C – 20°C was maintained in the care rooms and the sanitary areas.