

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024WW006

Name of Service: Little Harvard Childcare Ltd

Address of Service: The Broomhall Business and Enterprise Centre,
Merrymeeing, Rathnew,
Co. Wicklow,

Email Address: adminbroomhall@littleharvard.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: James Hargrave & Regina McGovern

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Full Day Care, Part-Time and Sessional Service to cater for 190 children aged 1-6 years. Proposed opening hours 07:00 to 18:30 Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year.

Proposed Number of Children: 190 pre-school children

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) Register as a Full Day Care, Part-Time and Sessional service to cater for 190 children aged 1-6 years attending from Monday-Friday weekly for 51 weeks of the year.

Registered service: Registered Full Daycare, Part-time Sessional service
190 children

Date of Inspection: 0 9 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: Mona Condon and Emer Mulhern

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Loughlinstown Health Centre,
Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown,
Co. Dublin.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Daycare, Part-time Sessional service 190 children
Date of Registration:	4 th October 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).

Description of Service	The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care, part-time care and sessional service for pre-school children aged one year to six years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 07.00- 18.30, and it will operate for 51 weeks of the year.
Premises	The premises is purpose built as part of a business park. The service is located in a two-storey standalone building and comprises of 11 care rooms, one sleep room, sanitary accommodation for both children and adults, a kitchen, staff room, storage areas, an office and an entrance hallway. Outdoor play area for the service is sited at the back and sides of the premises and car parking is provided at the front of the building.
Staffing	The person in charge stated that at present there are 15 staff employed. There is a named person in charge and named deputy person in charge 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 or the equivalent.
Methodology	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. 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

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgement	The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the operations manager and person in charge 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.

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:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required. It was stated by the person in charge that an additional 15 staff members are available to commence employment.
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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:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) 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. All rooms were equipped with age-appropriate safe
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toys and equipment. An armchair was available in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms so that staff could sit comfortably to feed/ nurture a child.

The outdoor play area was located at the rear and sides of the premises. It was bordered by high walls and fencing. Part of the area adjacent to the premises was covered and could be used during periods of inclement weather. The surface was covered with artificial grass and soft matting. Suitable and safe toys and equipment were available.

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

(1)(b)

Room 5, located on the ground floor, was allocated as a sleep/ cot room. Twenty-two standard cots are available to accommodate the proposed thirty children aged 1-2 years who will attend. The person in charge is aware that each individual baby's sleep needs will be met to sleep on demand.

In addition, 20 sleep mats are available for the children attending the rooms located on the ground floor.

For children attending the first floor eight sleep beds and twenty-five sleep mats are available to cater for the children attending who may require sleep.

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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>Parents are asked to provide all snacks for their child attending on a sessional basis.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All meals are prepared on site and a full-time chef will be employed in the service. A four-week menu is available. Portable water will be available for children in all care rooms.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The front door leading to the hallway will be open. Parents/guardians must ring a bell to gain access to the service. The door leading from the entrance hallway was locked. Each room has a screen to identify the person at the door prior to allowing access. • 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 and in all care rooms for the storage of food. • A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.
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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 partially met. (2)(a)(b) 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 will have a small first aid kit available.
Requirement not met:	There was no evidence that a person trained in First Aid response will be at all times be immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
Response from Provider:	Please see attached evidence of First Aid Responder certificate for 3 staff members who will be working in the service.
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met.

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. (b)A method to record the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service was available. Certificates were available regarding the commissioning of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm dated 09/24 and 08/24 respectively.
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(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the care rooms throughout the service. The fire assembly point is identified by signage within the premises and is located at the rear of the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met. The Registration Team received insurance cover to operate a Full Daycare service with 190 children, cover from 29/08/2024 To 27/03/2025.

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 well maintained.

(b) The door at street level leading to the premises was opened by the manager. The internal entrance doors leading into the service will be kept secured at all times. Entrance to the service will be permitted by staff in their rooms who can visually identify the person prior to allowing admission.

(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 each of the eleven care rooms on ground floor and first floor levels, large windows provided natural light.

The lighting in the allocated sleep rooms could be dimmed.

Heating

The air to water heating system was thermostatically controlled. With the exception of the care room number 9, 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. The sleep room was between 18-20°C on the day of inspection. All care rooms had individual thermostats which could be programmed in each room.

Ventilation

Ventilation was predominantly provided by means of openable windows, doors. The care rooms and sleep room benefitted from openable windows. All sanitary areas had either window or mechanical ventilation. All windows were fitted with opening devices. Air conditioning was also available in all care rooms and the sleep room.

(d)

The freshly painted walls, ceiling tiles and floors finished with a heavy-duty lino were well maintained. A cleaning store off the hallway 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 26 nappy changing units, 24 toilets and 24 sinks were available in seven sanitary areas available for the children and located off their respective rooms. A further adult height sink was available in each of the care rooms.

Thermostatically hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available in all rooms and sanitary areas.

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	Four toilets and four sinks were available for staff members.
Requirement not met:	<p>(c)</p> <p>1.The temperature of Room 9 was 27°C on the day of inspection. This could not be reduced to the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C by means of the thermostat in the room during the inspection.</p> <p>2. It was no evidence that there was a means to heat the sanitary rooms in the service.</p> <p>3. Two sanitary areas, one located off rooms 5 and 6 and the second area off rooms 11 and 12 did not have opening windows. It was not evident that the mechanical ventilation in these sanitary areas was working.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>1.The temperature of Room 9 has been corrected, please see attached evidence.</p> <p>2.The heating in the sanitary rooms will come from the adjoining rooms and a thermometer will be installed with a daily log of temperature.</p> <p>3.The main switch which operates the ventilation in the sanitary room was not turned on, but this has since been rectified and all ventilation is now working in both sanitary rooms.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met.

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—*

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- (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).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) 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.

(2)(3)

The service has adequate clear floor space for the proposed number of 190 pre-school children to attend as outlined below.

It is proposed that all children attending Rooms 2, 4,6 and 9 will attend on a full day care basis. The children attending all other rooms (Rooms 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10) will attend on a sessional basis, part-time and full-day care basis.

Room Number	Proposed Age Range	Clear floor space
Room 1	2.5- 6 years	42.3 m ²
Room 2	2-3 years	41.4 m ²
Room 3	2.5-6 years	28.5 m ²
Room 4	1-2 years	44.5 m ²
Room 6	1-2 years	38.2 m ²
Room 7	2.5-6 years	41.4 m ²
Room 8	2.5-6 years	40.4 m ²
Room 9	2-3 years	28.2m ²
Room 10	2-3 years	28.3 m ²
Room 11	2.5-6 years	42.6 m ²
Room 12	2.5-6 years	38.4 m ²

The total space available will allow for the proposed maximum of 190 pre-school children. The registered provider will ensure that adequate space will be provided for each pre-school child as specified in Schedule 7.

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(4)(a)(b)

The required floor space for a maximum of 190 pre-school children, in the proposed age range of one to six years, is available.