

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026DN100											
Name of Service:	Little Harvard Childcare											
Address of Service:	Ash House, The Avenue, Semple Woods, Donabate, Dublin, K36 A0P6											
Email Address:	adminsemplewoods@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:	Proposal to provide a sessional, part time and full day care service to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age.											
Proposed Number of Children:	75 Full day care /85 sessional service											
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	75 Full day care /85 sessional service age 1 to 6 years of age.											
Registered service:	Registered Pre-School Service											
Date of Inspection:	2	9	0	7	2	0	2	6				
Inspection Undertaken by:	E Hosford and Á Dunne											
Title:	Early Years Inspectors											

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Dublin North East, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Pre-School Service
Date of Registration:	10.08.2026

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 childcare service will provide sessional, part time and full day care to children aged between 1-6 years. The service will operate from 7am to 6:30 pm Monday to Friday. The service proposes to provide the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	The proposed childcare service will operate from a ground floor purpose-built facility in a residential area and will consist of nine care rooms, one separate sleep room, an outdoor area, a service kitchen and administration office. The nine care rooms are Room 1 (1-2 years), Rooms 3,4,6,7,8,9 (2-3 years), Rooms 5 and 10 (2 years 8 months- 6 years). The service has a separate cot room - Room 2 for use by the children aged under 1-2 years and has 5 standard cots and one evacuation cot. A service kitchen will prepare and provide all the meals and snacks to the children attending.
Staffing	The registered providers propose to employ 15 staff to include, a designated person in charge a deputy designated person in charge, 12 childcare staff and one cook. All

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	childcare staff will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications
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 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 general manager, the child protection and compliance officer and the operations manager 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) The service has a designated person in charge and a named staff member is available to deputise as required

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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) The registered provider has proposed that an adequate number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service. There will be 12 adults caring for 75 children aged 1-6 years attending the service on a full day care and a maximum of 85 children attending on a sessional basis.

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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

(a) The rooms have been furnished and laid out in consideration of the developmental needs and age range of the children. There is a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs available and play resources are visible and accessible at child height. For example, interest items such as jigsaws, connectable shapes, doctor's instruments and handheld vehicles, are arranged on low-level, open shelving, or in pull out drawer units. Examples of the accessible outdoor equipment include slides, seesaws, ride on toys, a messy / sensory cabin mud kitchen and playhouses.

(b) Rest spaces, furnished with large floor mats, cushions and soft toys, have been developed in each of the care rooms.

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	Standard cots are available for children aged 1-2 years, and low stackable beds are provided for children who may require sleep while attending the service. Linen is also available.
	(2)
	(a) The designated outdoor play environment of the proposed service is available to the rear of the service and secured by high-level fencing and secured gates.

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.
A healthy eating policy is in operation within the service with all meals and snacks provided to the children attending. Breakfast, a morning snack, a hot meal at lunch time an afternoon tea is available during the day. Additional food and snacks are available should a child become hungry between meals. Drinking water is available in all the care rooms if a child becomes thirsty. A refrigerator is available in Rooms 1, 5 and 10 to enable staff to store perishable food from home.

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:

- (1)(a) The requirement has been met.
- The main entrance door which leads into the service is appropriately secured and monitored with an entry phone and buzzer system to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
 - The window openings of the service were positioned at a low level and had safety latches in place.

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	• The play materials and equipment in the service were stored on stable-based low level shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children. • The tables and chairs in the care rooms that are used for tabletop activities and mealtimes were the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room. • The emergency exit doors of the service were unobstructed. • The outdoor area is secured with high fences, and two secure gates therefore preventing a child from exiting the area and preventing unauthorised access to the service. • All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors was inaccessible to the children. • A system was available for the safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment.
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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.

(1) An adequate number of staff had up to date First Aid Response training.

(2)(a), (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the main reception, kitchen and corridor of the service.

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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 template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment of the service. The firefighting equipment was serviced on the 2 July 2026 and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 28 April 2026.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance hall and each care room of the premises. There were illuminated fire exit signs on all the exit doors of the service. A fire assembly sign was present in the car park opposite the main creche entrance and 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 has been met.

The service had a proposed insurance to cover 137 children from the 1 June 2026 to 27 March 2027.

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

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Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (a) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and inspectors did not identify any safety issues or concerns. (b) The entrance door to the service is adequately secured and monitored with an electric buzzer system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. (c) Each care room had windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights were fitted with shatter proof coverings. Heating and ventilation are provided by an air-conditioning system heat that maintains the room temperatures throughout the service. The temperature of the care rooms was recorded between 21°C and 21.6°C on the day of inspection. The sanitary facilities and nappy changing areas were fitted with mechanical ventilation systems to extract stale air. (d) The care rooms were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule was available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities to ensure regular cleaning of the service. (e) All of the sanitary facilities are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems. Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap, electric hand dryers, paper towels were provided in all sanitary facilities and care rooms. Pedal bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels. Staff members use separate sanitary facilities. There is a total of 14 children's toilets, 14 adjacent wash hand basins and 10 wall mounted changing tables available. Two staff toilets and two sinks are available for use by the adults. The setting is serviced by a public water supply.
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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:

The requirement has been met

- (1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.
- (2) Based on the proposed age range and number of children, there is adequate space available for 76 children attending on a full day care and part time basis and 85 children attending on a sessional basis.
 - Room 1 was measured as 14.531 m2
 - Room 2 was measured as 13.721 m2
 - Room 3 was measured as 27.236 m2
 - Room 4 was measured as 30.523 m2
 - Room 5 was measured as 27.591 m2
 - Room 6 was measured as 13.013 m2
 - Room 7 was measured as 15.139 m2
 - Room 8 was measured as 14.618 m2
 - Room 9 was measured as 12.248 m2
 - Room 10 was measured as 39.682 m2

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- (3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum space of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.
- (4)(a) The minimum clear floor space is available for the duration of the sessional preschool service.
- (b) The minimum clear floor space is available for a full day care service or a part-time day care service.