

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2026KE102

Name of Service: Little Harvard Childcare

Address of Service: 1 Castle Avenue, Hereford Park, Leixlip, Kildare, W23 EOF6

Email Address: adminhereford@littleharvard.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: James Hargrave and Regina McGovern

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

Proposed service type:	The registered providers propose to accommodate 80 children aged 2 to 6 years on a full time, part time and sessional care basis. The providers propose to operate between 07:00 and 18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.
Proposed Number of Children:	80
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Proposed service approved for a maximum of 80 children aged 2 to 6 years on a full time, part time and sessional care basis. Operating hours between 07:00 and 18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.
Registered service:	

Date of Inspection: 2 0 0 8 2 0 2 6

Inspection Undertaken by: E. Mulhern and R. Phillips

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Rd, Naas, Co Kildare.

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Service Registered
Date of Registration:	24/08/2026

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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	The proposed service will be a privately operated early years service for children aged 2-6 years. It will offer full day, part time and sessional care and education to a maximum of 80 children. The General Manager reported that the service may apply to increase the capacity to 98 at a later stage. The service will open from 07:00 to 18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.
Premises	The service will operate from a purpose built two-storey building in a residential area in Leixlip, County Kildare. There will be eight care rooms which are each equipped with a sanitary area. Children will be allocated to a room according to their age and the type of service being provided. The premises includes a kitchen and an office. Children will have use of an enclosed outdoor space at the front of the building. The service has almost completed the development of a second large outdoor area with natural features at the side of the building which will be made available to the children when complete.
Staffing	The providers have appointed a manager for the service and a named person to deputise in their absence. The General Manager reported that only two rooms will open initially with four staff employed. Staffing will increase accordingly as the number of children attending increases. The General Manager was aware of the staffing requirements according to the ages of children and type of service being provided.
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

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	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 who was present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The providers have ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) The General Manager reported that only two rooms will open initially with four staff employed. Staffing will increase accordingly as the number of children attending increases. The General Manager was aware of the staffing requirements according to the ages of children and type of service being provided.

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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.*
- (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 care rooms had natural light and were equipped with play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children proposed to attend each room. They included resources to support a range of play experiences, including imaginative, creative, sensory, construction and fine motor play. Low level tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

(b) Twelve low level beds were available for children to sleep. The General Manager stated that children will be accommodated to sleep within their care rooms. A rest area with soft furnishings was available in each room.

(2)(a) There was an enclosed outdoor area with an artificial grass surface available at the front of the premises. Equipment to support gross motor play was available, including ride-on toys. The area was fully enclosed and secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child leaving unsupervised.

A second large outdoor area with natural elements was undergoing development. This area was secured away from use, and the General Manager reported it will be fully enclosed and safeguarded prior to being made available for use by the children.

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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.

The General Manager reported that all food will be provided by the service and prepared freshly in the kitchen each day by a cook. The service had a healthy eating policy and a three-week rotating menu for meals and snacks. Refrigerators were available to store perishable foods. Drinking water was available.

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.

External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The entrance door was locked, and a keypad entry system was in place for access by authorised adults. The gates in the outdoor area were suitably secured. Emergency exits were kept clear and the fire assembly points were clearly identifiable.

The premises appeared clean and cleaning schedules were available. Sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped to support handwashing. There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including pedal operated, lidded bins.

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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) Staff members were employed who hold current certification in first aid responder (FAR) training for children.

(2)(a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid bags were provided in the service. The bags were clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

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) The General Manager stated that fire drills will be carried out monthly. A template was available for recording these.

(b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the commissioning and servicing of the fire detection and alarm system.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously throughout the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

The service had insurance for 80 children dated from 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*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The service will operate from a newly, purpose-built two storey facility.

(b) The main door was controlled by a keypad entry system for authorised adults. The outdoor area that is currently available for use was secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c) Each care room had windows for natural light. Artificial lighting was available from covered ceiling lights. An air-to-water heating system was in place. Ambient air temperatures could be controlled digitally in each room. Windows in each of the care rooms could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation systems were in place in the sanitary areas.

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	(d) Cleaning schedules were in place and the premises appeared clean and well maintained. (e) Each room had direct access to sanitary facilities. A total of 10 toilets with wash hand basins were available to the children. Each room also had a nappy change unit. Two toilets with wash hand basins were available for staff. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available and did not exceed 43°C.
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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.
- (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).

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met.			
	(1), (2) & (4) Based on the proposed number and age range of children there was adequate clear floor space for a maximum of 98 children. The General Manager stated that due to a graduated opening the maximum accommodated will be 80 and an application may be made to increase to 98 at a later stage.			
	Room number and position within service	Clear floor space (square metres)	Proposed age range	Number of children proposed. (S = sessional; FDC = Full day care)

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	1: Ground Floor (first room on left when entering service)	20 m ²	2.8 – 6 years	11 (S) / 8 (FDC)
	2: Ground Floor (second room on left when entering service)	20 m ²	2.8 – 6 years	11 (S) / 8 (FDC)
	3: Ground Floor (third room on left when entering service)	20 m ²	2.8 – 6 years	11 (S) / 8 (FDC)
	4: Ground Floor (only room on right when entering service)	27 m ²	2.8 – 6 years	11 (S) / 8 (FDC)
	5: First Floor (first room on left coming up stairs)	36 m ²	2.8 – 6 years	20 (S) / 16 (FDC)
	6: First Floor (room directly in front of stairs)	20 m ²	2.8 – 6 years	11 (S) / 8 (FDC)
	7: First Floor (room on right hand side opposite stairs)	20 m ²	2.8 – 6 Years	11 (S) / 8 (FDC)
	8: First Floor (room on right hand side adjacent to stairs)	30.6 m ²	2 – 3 Years	12 (FDC)