

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CN002		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Angela Deighan's Montessori School		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ramparts View, Virginia, Co. Cavan		
<b>Eircode:</b>	A82 XE27		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Angela Deighan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/09/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM 27
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray & AM. Cunningham		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		

### 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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

### Description of service

Angela Deighan’s Montessori School was established in 2007 as a privately owned Early Years’ Service. The service provides full time, part-time and sessional care and education to children from 2 to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided. The service operates from 8:00am to 6:00 pm and eligible children can participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The service consists of two pre-school rooms in the main building with an additional care room located in a fabricated building to the rear of the premises.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

**Room 1** provided care and education to children from 3 years 8 months to 5 years. A sessional service operated from 08:30 to 11:30am with the children availing of the full day care /part-time service moving to Room 2 at 3pm. This room was used for school aged children from 3 to 6 pm.

**Room 2** facilitated the care and education of children from 2 years 8 months to 3 years 8 months attending a sessional ECCE service from 9 to 12am with an afternoon ECCE service from 12am to 3pm.

**Room 3** accommodated the care and education of children from 2 years 8 months to 3 years 8 months attending a sessional ECCE service from 08:45 to 11:45am with children availing of full day care service moving to Room 2 in the afternoon.

Additional facilities include a kitchen, office, sanitary accommodation and an outdoor space divided into 3 areas.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs 8 childcare staff and 2 staff members specific to the school aged children. On the morning of the inspection there were the registered provider and 6 childcare staff. Two additional childcare staff commenced work in the afternoon. One staff member from 1 to 6pm and another staff member from 3 to 6pm. Two school aged staff members commenced work in the afternoon. One staff member from 1 to 6pm and another staff member from 3 to 6pm.

### 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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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,

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) Eleven staff files were reviewed.

(a)&(b) Twenty Two validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 11 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's were available for 6 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Nine childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6) (a) One staff member was employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

## 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) On the morning of the inspection there was the registered provider and 6 adults working directly with the 31 pre-school children attending the service.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity on the day of inspection:

**Room 1** had 17 children ranging in age from 3 years 8 months to 5 years being cared for by 3 adults. Eight children were availing of full day care, 7 children were availing of part-time care and 2 children were availing of the sessional ECCE hours.

**Room 2** had 5 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 3 years 8 months being cared for by 2 adults. One child was availing of full day care, 2 children were availing of part-time care and 2 children were availing of the sessional ECCE hours.

**Room 3** had 9 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 3 years 8 months being cared for by 1 adult. Three children were availing of full day care while 6 children were availing of part-time care.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster 2 adults were present on the premises 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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

##### Basic needs:

- The staff members sat with the children at snack and dinner time helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- In Rooms 2&3 any child who became upset or who were settling in were nurtured and cuddled until they settled.
- Staff members were responsive to the children's cues should they need to use the toilet, with discreet supervision provided and assistance given if required.
- Children were observed engaging in tabletop activities, art and crafts and free play with children afforded the opportunity to choose and change activities if they so wish. The curriculum was child led with the

themes of the week being colours and rainbows in Room 1 and 2 and in Room 3 Paw Patrol with childrens art work displayed.

- The service embraced outdoor play and learning. The outdoor spaces had areas of interest which supported children's play and curiosity with adequate space for children to play alone and in small and large groups. Children were observed enjoying imaginative, energetic and messy outdoor play with both their peers and staff members. Staff supported children's learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative.

### **Supporting relationships around children:**

- The staff members communicated with parents through a messaging system by phone regarding activities pertaining to their children. Weekly messages were also sent home to parents regarding planned activities within the pre-school.
- The staff encouraged the children to engage positively with each other by adopting simple social rules such as turn taking, sharing in play activities and resolving minor disputes.
- Transitions were handled smoothly as the children were given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.
- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed in the care rooms which gave a sense of identity and belonging.

### 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-
- (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.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)(b) There were no children availing of sleep attending the service. Within the care rooms there were mats, soft seating and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest, if needed.
- (3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to the rear of the premises, which was enclosed by walls and fencing, artificial grass surface and hard surface areas with 2 secure side gates. This space was divided into 3 areas to accommodate the age range of the children. A partially sheltered area with table and seating, permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The care rooms were well resourced with play materials and equipment which were laid out in interest areas which were spacious and uncluttered. The play materials and equipment incorporated natural/sensorial materials, Montessori equipment, art and crafts, a range of suitable toys and books which were easily accessible on open shelving at their height.
- The outdoor spaces were equipped with age-appropriate play materials and equipment. Equipment included sand boxes, large play houses, ride on toys, seating benches, tyres, balance beams, mud kitchen, sensory play tray with coloured rice, tyres with bark, pebbles and blocks, dolls and buggies. Children also participated in art activities under the sheltered outdoor area.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a menu plan with a range from meat and poultry freshly prepared onsite.

The service provided breakfast from 8 to 9am. Morning snack was served at 10:15am which the children brought from home. Dinner was served at 11:45 am which consisted of cooked ham, mash potatoes, beans and vegetables. A snack was served at 2pm consisting of chopped fruit and crackers. Additional snacks were available for the children staying until 6pm. Water and milk were the drinks of choice.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

The following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- The side entrances and the main door to the service were secured by a buzzer system. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- All furniture and display units had a stable base with no risk of toppling identified.

##### Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The hand washing policy was implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained.
- Fridges were available in the care rooms for the refrigeration of perishable items.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Four ceiling bulbs in the entrance hallway and 2 ceiling bulbs in Room 1 & 2 were exposed with no protective shades to collect particles in the event that a bulb shattered.

### Infection Control:

2. The storage of perishable foods in Rooms 1 & 3 was unsuitable, these foods were stored in cooler bags with no thermostat or electrical supply to control the temperature.

### Fire Safety:

3. A battery operated smoke detector rather than a mains powered smoke detector was provided in the pre-fabricated building used to accommodate Room 3.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The bulbs have been replaced with non-shatter bulbs. The registered provider will ensure that ceiling lights with no protective covering have non shatter bulbs in place.

2. A larger fridge has been purchased and the smaller one has been placed in Room 3. The registered provider will ensure that all perishable items in children's lunch boxes are refrigerated on a daily basis.

3. A mains powered smoke alarm has been installed in Room 3. The registered provider will ensure that it is serviced on an annual basis.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the following:

Non shatter bulbs purchased.

Two fridges.

Mains powered smoke alarm installed in Room 3 with servicing record.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances. The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

## 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

## 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place June 2025 prior to closing for the summer months.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment in the main building and in the fabricated building to the rear of the premises. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced February 2025. The mains powered smoke alarm for the main building were last serviced on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 46 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2025 to the 27/3/2026.