

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL251
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Purple Turtle Montessori
-------------------------	--------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	13 Mountfield lawns, Malahide, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	K36 DK61
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Brenda Langton
-------------------------------------	----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	24/01/2024
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Cully
<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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Purple Turtle Montessori is a sessional service located in a residential area of Malahide. The preschool service is operated from a care room within the registered providers private residence. There are sanitary facilities available along with an enclosed garden to the rear of the premises. A Montessori preschool session is available Monday to Friday between 09.15 and 12.45 and the service participates in the state funded Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

### Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children. There is an additional staff member employed to work directly with the children 2 days a week, or when required.

### 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 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 registered provider 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 registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

A total of 2 staff files were reviewed including the file for the registered provider. Both adults whose files were reviewed work directly with the early years children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two written and validated references were available for the staff member and the registered provider.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the staff member and the registered provider who work directly with the preschool children.

(d) Following a review of information available in the staff files, there was no requirement for international police vetting disclosures for any staff member or the registered provider.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the staff member and the registered provider who work directly with the children held appropriate childcare qualifications at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.
- (3) The adult to child ratio was correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced at 10.15am and remained so throughout the inspection. There were 10 children present aged 3 years and 5 months to 4 years and 9 months being cared for by 1 adult.
- (8)(c) The second member of staff is rostered to work in the service on Thursdays and Fridays. In the event of an emergency, this person is within close distance of the service and is available to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The records in relation to the 10 registered children were reviewed and were found to be appropriately completed with the required information as specified in Regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i).

(3)(c) The records were open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person, the early years inspector.

### 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 are examples on how each child's learning, development and well-being was observed being facilitated during the inspection:

#### Basic needs:

- The preschool practices rolling snack time which begins when a vase of flowers is placed on the dining table. Children showed familiarity with this practice as they took laminated labels from the fridge door to hang on an available chair to indicate they were about to eat. A maximum of 4 children could dine at any one time. The children took their snacks, which are provided by parents, from the fridge and had a casual and social experience while other children continued with their activities. The staff member ensured that all children had participated in rolling snack time.
- Children were encouraged to independently meet their personal care needs such as toileting, handwashing, wiping their nose or putting on clothes/aprons. They were discreetly supervised and provided with support when needed.
- The children were free to navigate their environment and chose from activities or resources that had been prepared and made available by the staff member based on the children's interests and the weekly curriculum topic.
- The staff member communicated upcoming transitions, activities or changes to the daily routine will the children throughout the session. There were visual displays in relation to classroom rules, routines, attendance, and emotions to support children with their daily routines and interactions.
- Children's photographs, family photos and artwork were displayed throughout the care room. Displaying children's photographs and artwork supports them to feel safe and secure in their learning environment.
- The staff member explained that following a risk assessment of the garden and persistent bad weather, the garden was not being used on the day of inspection but that outdoor play is typically part of the services daily routine. This was evident as the garden's equipment and resources appeared well maintained.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff member was observed to have nurturing interactions with children throughout the session. Children's questions and suggestions were responded to with interest and when children needed guidance, they were offered it with sensitivity and gentle reminders of classroom rules. All children were given positive feedback, and their efforts were acknowledged.
- The children demonstrated that they had a positive sense of belonging and connectedness within the service. They spoke freely with the staff member about their thoughts and feelings and activities they wanted to do. The children talked to the inspector about their peers and were familiar with each other's personalities, interests, and needs. They were observed to positive interact together and support each other to carry out tasks or activities.
- The staff member took opportunities during play and interactions to use words or phrases from other languages with the children such as Irish and Spanish.

### Physical and material environment:

- A variety of play materials and resources were available to the children. Montessori equipment and materials were available that were organised and categorised by themes and functionality. There were areas of interest arranged to engage children in meaningful play such as reading area, mark making area, sensory tray, painting station and modelling dough area.
- Materials and equipment were stored on sturdy, low-level shelving facilitating children's easy access to resources of choice.
- The outdoor space provided a range of natural materials, with natural grass and a partially paved area. There was an area to the rear of the garden with a bark covered surface, a wooden teepee/seating area, mud kitchen, tree stumps and balancing beam. The garden also had raised flower beds, a sensory tray and a raised lidded sand/digging tray.

### 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

The registered provider had taken reasonable measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children was maintained in the following ways.

#### General Safety:

- External and internal doors of the preschool service were appropriately secured to prevent an unauthorised person from gaining access to the children and prevent children from exiting the premises unsupervised.
- Radiators in the care room were fitted with radiator covers to protect children from touching the surface in the event the surface reached above 50oC.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children.
- Play materials and equipment provided in each care room were observed to be safe and suitable for the children present.
- The glass doors leading to the garden had visibility strips on the glass panels.

#### Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities were available to the children and staff in the care room and the sanitary facility. Wash hand basins were supplied with warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels.
- Children were observed to be knowledgeable about good handwashing practices, independently washing hands before snack time or following an activity such as painting or modelling dough.
- Childrens snacks from home were stored in a refrigerator located in the care room.
- The sand table provided in the outdoor play area had an appropriate lid and was covered when not in use, to prevent contamination by animals and birds.
- The premises including the play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.

#### Administration of Medication:

- There was an adequate written care plan in place for a child who may require the administration of prescribed medication in the event of an allergic reaction. This care plan was developed with the parent and there was documentary evidence that the parent had demonstrated to the staff how to administer the medication. No medication was observed being administered to any child on the day of inspection.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were clearly identifiable with signage. They were also unobstructed to allow a quick exit from the service in the event of an emergency.
- Fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. The details of the fire drills are recorded, and the last fire drill was recorded to have taken place 14/12/23.
- There was documentary evidence to demonstrate staff had participated in fire safety training in September 2023.

## 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 registered provider is trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and is at all times, immediately available to the children attending the preschool service..

(2)(a)(b) There are 2 first aid boxes available in the service which are suitably equipped and stored in an accessible location in the care room.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate the preschool service was adequately insured. The service is currently insured to accommodate 10 sessional preschool children, with an expiry date 27/03/2024.