

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE054

Name of Service: The Purple Penguin Creche and Montessori

Address of Service: The Orchard, Oldtown Mill, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 KD77

Email Address: info@purplepenguin.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Sandra Buckley

Type of Service Registered: Full Day Care

Date of Inspection: 2 5 0 7 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 32 PM 31

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child & Family Agency,
Suite 7
Vista Primary Care
Ballymore Eustace road
Naas, Co. Kildare

Inspection undertaken by: T. Duignan, F. Maher and E. Finnegan.

Titles: Early Years Inspectors

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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).

Conditions If Applicable Not applicable

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	<p>The Purple Penguin Creche and Montessori was established in 2004 as an early year’s service for pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years.</p> <p>The service provides full day, part-time time and sessional childcare and education to pre-school children from 07.30am – 18.30 hours Monday to Friday. School aged childcare is provided also in the service.</p> <p>The service has temporarily revised the opening hours since re-opening following lockdown and is currently operating from 08.00am -17.30 hours.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a purpose-built premises situated within a housing development on the outskirts of Celbridge, Co Kildare. There are six pre-school rooms available in the main building and another room in a log cabin at the rear of the premises. There are two sleep rooms, two nappy changing areas, an office, a kitchen and a staff room. There is a large outdoor area at the rear of the service. Set down and parking facilities are available at the front of the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>There were thirteen adults present in the service on the day of the inspection and of these nine adults were working directly with the preschool children. Two adults including the designated person in charge were available to provide additional support the care rooms when needed. The registered provider was not present.</p> <p>All those working directly with the preschool children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff members and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

(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—

(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:

A sampling process was used to review the records. The records of 6 adults recruited since the last inspection and one adult on work placement were reviewed.

(2)

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 6 recently employed staff member and one workplace student.

(d) Police vetting was available for 2 adults who had lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) 4 recently employed childcare staff member working directly with pre-school children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework and 2 staff members were in possession of letters of eligibility to practice.

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:	<p>(1) There were thirty-two children attending the service being supervised directly by nine adults.</p> <p>(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.</p> <p>(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.</p>
-------------------------	--

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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.
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service.

Compliance Information:

Basic care needs of the infants and children

There was a healthy eating policy in the service. The main hot meals served are provided by an outside catering company and a dedicated staff member reheats and prepares this meal in the kitchen of the service. The weekly menu is displayed on the notice board in the main hallway. Water was freely available to the children throughout the day in each room. The children had fruit and crackers for their morning snack; cottage pie was served for lunch and macaroni and cheese was served at teatime. Milk was offered as a drink at snack and mealtimes.

Three highchairs and low-level age-appropriate chairs and a table were available for the younger children in the Baby and Wobbler rooms to sit comfortably for meals and some play activities.

The staff members sat with the children at mealtimes and ensured that this was a relaxed and sociable experience for the children.

All children enjoyed freedom of movement in the pre-school rooms and in the outdoor play area when they were finished each activity.

The sleep and rest needs of the children attending the Baby and Wobbler rooms were accommodated on an individual basis; this was facilitated by a sufficient number of standard cots available for children under two years of age. Low level sleep beds were available for children aged 2 years and above requiring sleep at a designated time while attending on a full day care basis.

Nappy changing procedures were carried out on a routine basis and as required.

The older children were encouraged to be independent when using the toilet and assistance was provided when needed.

Supporting relationships around child

The key person approach was embedded in the practice of the service and each child was assigned one person to be their primary carer who also was the link between the service and the child's parents.

There was a calm and relaxed atmosphere in the service and the children were observed to be content and engaged. The transitions from one activity to another were well managed. The children were familiar with the routine of the service and were prepared in advance by the staff for transitions from lunch to outdoor play or sleep for example.

The staff members were observed to be warm and kind towards the children in their care. They spoke calmly and softly to the children in a respectful manner. Children's

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

first names, appropriate eye contact and soft vocal tones were used during interactions. Staff members were familiar with the families which was evident through their conversations with the children- they referenced siblings, events etc. The staff members played with children and sat with them during meals. Children were positively represented in the room- their art was displayed, there was a family wall and lots of pictures of the children engaged in various activities dotted around the room.

The staff members in the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler rooms were observed nursing and comforting children who became upset or wanted to be nursed.

The registered provider uses a closed electronic system to communicate with parents. The staff members also have a brief conversation with parents at the drop off and collection points.

Email, telephone and text are used as alternative methods of communication; face to face meetings by appointment can be arranged, as necessary.

Physical and material environment

The pre-school rooms were equipped with low level tables and chairs, highchairs and low-level shelving in each care room.

The Baby room was resourced with soft mats and rugs to enable the babies to comfortably spend time on the floor. There was a mirror on a wall and a handrail to enable the babies to pull to stand, look at themselves as well as promoting their gross motor development. Toys included interactive, pop-up toys and stacking equipment, push/pull equipment, musical toys, material books, balls, puzzles, rattles, two static bouncers and a baby gym for non-mobile babies. Toys were placed on the play mats and were accessible to the babies to explore and play with.

The Wobbler room had clearly defined and well-resourced areas including construction, sand and water, art, home corner including a range of dress up items and a selection of tabletop activities.

There were areas of defined interest including home corners, construction, art and craft, puzzles/ jigsaws/ threading/ peg boards, small world materials and rest areas with libraries in the Montessori 1 and 3 rooms. There was a nature table, a large sand tray with sand, an art easel set up for the children to independently use and dress up clothes for role play.

The outdoor area was at the rear of the service and was divided into three separate areas. This ensured that several groups could use the outdoor area simultaneously. The surface was covered in artificial grass carpet which ensured its use during inclement weather.

There was a variety of toys and equipment in each area including ride on toys, rocking toys, climbing frames, slides, mud kitchen, a sand and water tunnel and balance bikes.

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:

Infection Control

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Written cleaning schedules were available in each care room.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The children's handwashing was supervised by the staff members. Babies' hands were washed by the adults caring for the children. Wall mounted hand sanitising units were in place at the entrances to care rooms and entrance/exit points. Foot pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service to facilitate the hygienic disposal of used paper hand towel and tissues.

Gloves, plastic aprons, and nappy sacks were available for hygienic nappy changing practices. Bed linen was individual to each child.

There was a system in place for the immediate sterilisation of mouthed toys and soothers. Soothers when not in use, were stored after sterilising in individual containers.

General Safety.

The entrance to the main building was electronically controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school rooms.

The person in charge documented the inspectors visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival.

Safe Sleep

It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and the staff documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in their care. The staff members were familiar with current best practice guidelines in relation to reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome.

Administration of Medication

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children.

Outings

The service does not conduct outings.

Fire Safety.

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed.

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) Persons were trained in first aid for children including first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored in conspicuous positions in the premises.

(b) The first aid boxes were readily available in the service.

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 firefighting 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 fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was on 14 June 2022.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were last serviced June 2022 and 20 January 2022 respectively.

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