

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE054			
Name of Service:	The Purple Penguin Creche & Montessori			
Address of Service:	The Orchard, Oldtown Mill, Celbridge, Co. Kildare			
Eircode:	W23 KD77			
Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Buckley			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	08/10/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	57	PM	38
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.			
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan, E. Mulhern			
Title:	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).				
Conditions if applicable	n/a			

Description of service

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.

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.

The service operates from a purpose-built premises situated within a housing development on the outskirts of Celbridge, Co Kildare. There are five pre-school rooms available in the main building and another room in a log cabin at the rear of the premises. There are three 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.

Staffing

There were thirteen adults present in the service on the day of the inspection and of these eleven were working directly with the preschool children. Two adults including the registered provider, and the manager were available to provide additional support the care rooms when needed.

All adults working directly with the preschool children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 areas of governance and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (3), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(2),(8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 16 (1) (h), (i), (j), (k) - Record in relation to pre-school service.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.

however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed risk was identified under:

- Regulation 15(1)(f) Record of Pre-School Child.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under:

- Regulation 23- Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Montessori 2 room, Baby room, Toddler room and Montessori 3 room.

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.

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Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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-

(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

The records of 18 staff members were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a),(b) Two written and verified references from a past employer or in the absence of a past employer from a reputable source, were available in respect of each staff member whose records were reviewed.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 18 employed 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 was in place for 3 adults employed who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) Eighteen employed adults working directly with the children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) International Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived in another State for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) The staff member in question applied for police vetting 08/10/2024 straight after our inspection. The police vetting has now been received and has been put on file. Moving forward management will make sure to thoroughly go through new staff's CV and ask the question about if they ever lived abroad for more than 6 months.

Following on from that we have introduced a staff induction checklist.

Supporting documentation submitted

Police vetting document; staff induction checklist template

Summary Comment

The written response and documentation submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 9.

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) There were fifty-seven children attending the service being supervised directly by eleven adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises throughout the inspection, this was confirmed on review of the staff roster.

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:

(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;

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
(f) Health care plans for two children attending the service did not contain sufficient information to ensure the safe management of the children in the event they became unwell or required emergency administration of medication. One health care plan had not been updated to reflect changes in medication dosage.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)
(f) The parents of the children involved were given a new care plan to complete, and it was returned the following morning 09/10/2024.
There is a checklist placed on the care plan boxes and this will be reviewed every quarter. Included in this is to check if the care plan is needed to be revised.
Management will meet with the parents completing health care plans and make sure all documentation is filled out correctly and has sufficient information .

Supporting documentation submitted

Two health care plans; photograph of the box used to store the health care plan and the medicine.

Summary Comment

The written response, document and photographic evidence submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 15(1)(f).

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent.

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following required:

(h) Details of children's attendance, including their arrival and departure times at the service in real time, were readily available.

(i) A staff roster was available detailing the start and finish times for all staff members.

(j) A sample of 10 records documenting medication given to children was reviewed. Each record included all appropriate and relevant details.

(k) Records detailing accidents, injuries, and incidents involving children were readily available. A sample of 10 records were reviewed, each record contained the appropriate and relevant details.

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 entrance door to the service was electronically controlled by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the care rooms. Both side gates were secured with sliding bolt mechanisms that were out of reach of the children. The person in charge documented the inspectors' visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents and medicines. The management and staff members in the service completed daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments before children arrived or used the outdoor play area to promptly manage any risk identified.

Infection Control:

Nappy changing procedures were observed for four nappy changes; the procedure was consistent with the nappy change policy for the service. Disposable gloves, plastic aprons, nappy sacks and foot pedal operated bins were available for hygienic practice. Staff members were observed washing their hands before and after the procedure and all the children's hands were washed before they were brought back to their pre-school rooms.

The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be clean and tidy.

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. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

Safe Sleep:

There was a rest area in each of the care rooms for any child who wished to take a break from activities or rest.

There were three sleep rooms with sufficient sleep facilities available for any child in the service requiring sleep.

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and practice. An adult was always present in the room where children slept on low beds; Children's outer clothing was removed prior to them being placed to sleep.

All sleeping children were checked at ten-minute intervals and staff kept a record of the checks.

Bed linen was stored in individual containers. The environmental temperature of the sleep room used for the babies under 1 year old was maintained between 16°-20° Celsius. Air conditioning units were fitted in the three rooms to control the environmental room temperatures.

Fire Safety:

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

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

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 in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in each care room.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children was available to the children attending the service.