

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL251
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Name of Service:	Purple Turtle Montessori
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Address of Service:	13 Mountfield lawns, Malahide, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K36 DK61
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Name of Registered Provider:	Brenda Langton
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	N McEndoo
Title:	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).

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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 09.15am and 12.45pm 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 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16(k), 23 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN1044	18/06/2026	On review of the staff files, it was noted that international police vetting was not available for one staff member, who was present on the day of inspection and had access to children.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective and preventative actions which were accepted and addressed the Statutory Notice. The outstanding international police vetting was submitted and reviewed.	

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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) The registered provider ensured that:

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

(2) On the day of inspection, two adults were present, the registered provider and one adult who was employed to work directly with the children.

The following vetting information was available for two adults:

- (a) Three written validated references from past employers for two of the adults.
- (b) One written validated reference from a reputable source for one of the adults.

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(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4) Two of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (d) See statutory notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1044 served.

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.

(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 adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.

On the inspectors' unannounced arrival, the adult child ratio was observed to be correct and remained so throughout the inspection as follows,

- Two adults were present in the care room with 10 children.

(8)(c) The registered provider ensured there was a second person familiar with the service, who was in a position to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

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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:

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

Compliance Information

(1)(k) Provision for a record in writing was kept in respect of accidents and incidents within the service. Following discussion with the registered provider and a review of the record book it was determined no incidents had taken place since the previous inspection.

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

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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- Lunch within the service is supplied by the parents each day. A fridge is available for perishable food items. A rolling snack table promoting independence and choice was in operation on the day of inspection. Children who had not taken time to eat were encouraged to sit and eat at the table.
- Children were reminded to wash their hands both before and after eating, and after toileting. Support for toileting was available when required.

Supporting Relationships Around Children

- Staff were observed to be gentle and respectful in their interactions with children in their care. The interactions between the staff and children were kind and caring, with soft tones observed to be used throughout the day. Children were observed to be happy and relaxed and involved in a variety of activities that were readily accessible to them. Staff were observed using the Montessori materials alongside the children, modelling the use of the materials for the child.

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- Positive parental communication was observed at collection time, with detailed handover information given where required.

Physical and Material Environment

- On the day of inspection, a well-organised and stimulating learning environment was observed, consisting of a range of play-based materials and specialist Montessori equipment which were available at child level on open shelving, promoting independence, choice, and curiosity.
- A designated rest area was available, furnished with a child sized armchair, with a variety of books in proximity, supporting children's language development and literacy skills.
- The children had access to an outdoor area at the rear of the service. There was an enclosed garden area. There was a play structure with slide, benches and balance beam readily available for play.

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 main entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- The staircase was fitted with a stairgate to prevent unauthorised access to the first floor of the accommodation.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored out of the reach of children.
- The outdoor area was secured with tall wooden fencing and a bolted gate.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available within the service for safe disposal of waste.

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- Warm water, soap, and paper towels was readily available to children to wash their hands. Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A procedure was in place to practice and record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated in May 2026.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) On the day of inspection, a maintenance record was not available for the smoke alarms. It is acknowledged an annual record was in place for the firefighting equipment, with the last date of service occurring in September 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has confirmed that a contract is now in place for maintenance of the smoke detection system. Records of smoke alarm maintenance will be available going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of contract quotation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been accepted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 26 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection.