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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

New Lodge Nursery School
Belfast

Inspected: May 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON NEW LODGE NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST

1. Details of Children

| Number of children: | Class 1 | Class 2 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Attending full-time | 26 | 26 |
| Attending part-time | 0 | 0 |
| Under 3 years of age* | 6 | 7 |
| With statement of SEN** | 0 | 0 |
| At CoP stages 3 or 4*** | 1 | 0 |
| At CoP stages 1 or 2*** | 3 | 2 |
| With English as an additional language | 0 | 0 |

* On 1 July.

** Special Educational Needs.

*** The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2. | 54% |
| Average attendance for the previous year. | 85% |

2. Duration of Sessions

| Full-time | Part-time: am | Part-time: pm |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4½ hours | - | - |

3. Details of Staff

| Number of: | Full-Time | Part-Time |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Teachers | 2 | 0 |
| Nursery Assistants | 2 | 3 |
| Qualified Nursery Assistants | 2 | 3 |

| Number of: **** | |
|------------------------|---|
| Students | 0 |
| Trainees | 2 |

**** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Number issued | 52 |
| Percentage returned | 42% |
| Number of written comments | 11 |

NEW LODGE NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT15 2EL (111-0036)
INSPECTED: 16 MAY 2007

1. The nursery is situated in purpose built accommodation in the New Lodge area of north Belfast. Since the last inspection, a new principal has been appointed and took up post in February 2003.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection. Those who responded expressed very high levels of satisfaction with the work of the nursery.

3. The nursery has an excellent ethos and comprehensive policies and procedures for child protection that comply fully with Department of Education Circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that these policies and procedures are implemented effectively by all of the staff who show a very high level of concern for the children's welfare.

4. The nursery demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating habits and a healthy lifestyle among the children. Good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a range of appropriate energetic physical activities.

5. **The main strengths within the nursery's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.**

- The nursery has a very positive ethos and relationships at all levels are excellent. It has a warm, supportive atmosphere which helps the children grow in confidence and self-esteem. The staff have high expectations of all the children; the children respond well to the staff and their behaviour is excellent.
- The staff have created a very attractive, stimulating and rich learning environment. The children's work is thoughtfully displayed and exciting interest areas have been created to extend the children's thinking skills. Good use is made of all the space available within the building and the children experience a broad range of interesting activities and resources.
- The organisation of the daily timetable is carefully planned and provides an appropriate balance of freely chosen play and those activities which are led by the staff. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to provide choice and promote the children's independence.
- The quality of the interactions between the staff and the children is consistently of a very high standard. The adults match their support effectively to the children's abilities; they help develop natural conversations which promote a clear sense of enjoyment and stimulate and sustain the children's interest.
- The children are well-motivated and enthusiastic about their learning; they show high levels of concentration and during the inspection there were many instances of co-operative and purposeful play.

- The nursery's educational programme offers excellent opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's language are particular strengths. Excellent use is made of seasonal and environmental topics, which extend the children's knowledge of, and interest in, the world around them.
- The staff provide sensitive support for those children identified as having special educational needs. Individual educational plans have been developed which ensure that these children are integrated into the nursery programme and that they are making progress in their learning.
- The nursery has an effective programme of liaison with parents; a variety of appropriate methods is used to encourage the parents to play a full role in the education of their children.
- Appropriate systems of planning have been developed which effectively guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children; the staff monitor and record the children's progress and use this information to inform the planning.
- The Principal brings a high level of skill and enthusiasm to her work; she is an excellent role-model for the staff and is committed to the well-being of the children, their families and the local community. She is ably supported by the assistant teacher. There is a strong sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff. The trainees on placement within the nursery receive effective support and make a valuable contribution to the work of the team.

6. There is a well-developed culture of reflection and review within the nursery. The staff meet regularly to evaluate the planned programme and the school has a thoughtful and comprehensive development plan which highlights appropriate areas for review and improvement. The Principal and the staff are taking a carefully structured approach to self-evaluation and have gathered relevant evidence of improvement in several areas of provision, including the management and organisation of the dinner routine.

7. The quality of education provided in this nursery is outstanding. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being very well met. The parents can have confidence in the nursery's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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