

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Busy Bees Montessori Nursery,
Lisbellaw

Report of an Inspection
in May 2011

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Busy Bees Montessori Nursery
Address:	63 Inishmore Road Farnamullan LISBELLAW Co Fermanagh BT94 5DZ
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	24 May 2011
Date of previous inspection:	13 October 2004

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school centre	13	-
in their immediate pre-school year	9	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	9	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	2	-
with English as an additional language	0	-
who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	92%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	3	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	0

Number of: **	
Students	1
Trainees	0

** Total placements since September of current year

3. Details of Sessions

Duration of morning session	Duration of afternoon session	Number of days open in previous year
2½ hours	N/A	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	9
Percentage returned:	44.4%
Number of written comments:	3

**BUSY BEES MONTESSORI NURSERY, LISBELLAW, CO FERMANAGH, BT94 5DZ
(2AA-0063)**

1. Busy Bees Montessori Nursery is accommodated in purpose designed accommodation in the village of Lisbellaw. The children come from the village and the surrounding rural area. The proprietor was in post at the time of the last inspection, the leader was appointed four years ago and the assistant is newly appointed. The funded places are small in number and on the day of the inspection there were ten children and four staff present.

2. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery is very good. The nursery is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

3. The children are happy at their play and are well-motivated to learn and achieve. The staff provides opportunities for the children to experience a broad range of activities and in addition they enter art and creative competitions in the local and wider community and as a result the children are encouraged to celebrate their achievements. They display very good levels of interest in the wide range of activities and interesting resources provided in the indoor and outdoor learning environment. The children are confident and readily turn to the staff to extend their learning or to join in the play activities. The children have developed friendships and are independent; they are effectively developing a wide range of skills including, social and scientific skills such as investigation and exploration; for example, in the gardening area.

4. The staff effectively promotes the children's talking and listening skills. There are appropriate strategies in place to identify and links with external services to support the children in need of language development. During the inspection, the children were often observed using mathematical and imaginative language in the areas of play. The staff are good role-models for language development and the children were observed listening and responding to their open-ended questions about a range of ideas to do with safe play in the home area and during sensory exploration of the exotic fruits. The children readily turn to mark-making for early writing development and are able to draw pictures showing early representation of their ideas.

PROVISION FOR LEARNING

5. The learning environment is stimulating and enticing; careful consideration is given to the provision of interesting authentic resources and the effective use of all the space to create safe and attractive areas of learning. Good use is made of the children's photographs and own art work, including 3-dimensional models, to enhance the learning environment.

6. The staff plans effectively to address the range of varying language needs and a high priority is given to developing the children's language through sustained adult interactions. During the inspection, the staff often engaged the children in valuable discussion about their play and experiences, and extended the children's language and learning through their participation as effective role-models in the play.

7. The nursery's curriculum is broad and balanced; the activities provided offer very good opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum and promote effectively the children's all round development. The daily timetable is very well-organised to provide a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff.

8. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the pre-school centre is very good. The staff treats the children with care and warmth; they provide a secure environment which is helping the children to grow in confidence, independence and to have consideration for others. There are excellent working relationships at all levels.

9. The centre has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

10. The pre-school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, as part of the snack routine the children are encouraged to try a wide range of 'healthy' foods and they have regular opportunities to engage in physical activity. The children also grow some soft fruits in the garden. This provision encourages the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

11. The Proprietor who works in the nursery and the dedicated leader are very good role models in promoting the children's learning and development. The staff engages well with one another in the development of the pre-school programme and there is a strong sense of teamwork. All of the staff has a caring approach to the children and work hard to maintain a broad and balanced pre-school programme. There is very good team working and a reflective culture of self-improvement. The good links with a range of community services should be strengthened to include the local primary schools.

12. The nursery has an outline development plan with identified targets for improvement. The staff has attended a range of training and development courses and there is evidence that this training is having a positive impact on the overall quality of the nursery provision. The nursery is very well-supported by the early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation; the staff clearly value this support and a self-evaluative culture has been established. The staff has begun to record evidence of improvements in the nursery and have appropriately identified the need to build on this improvement cycle.

13. The key strengths in this nursery include:

- the welcoming learning environment which is stimulating and productive;
- the the supportive ethos and very good pastoral care shown to the children which results in happy and confident children;
- the broad and balanced pre-school curriculum and the children's achievements, particularly in the development of mathematical language and learning in the outdoors;
- the good to very good quality of the staff's interaction which sustains the children's play and learning;
- the support of the EYS in the development of the pre-school programme and the policies that guide the day-to-day work of the staff; and
- the productive involvement of the Proprietor and the dedicated leader who is effectively supported by a hard-working, committed staff.

14. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery is very good. The nursery is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

QUESTIONNAIRES

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the staff and the management committee to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Four of the parents responded to the questionnaire and three made additional written comments; most of the comments were very positive and indicate a high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the centre's work; in particular the parents praised the care shown to the children by the hard-working and approachable staff. The responses from the four staff questionnaires were wholly positive. A summary of all the responses has been shared with the staff and proprietor of the nursery.

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