



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

**ABC Day Nursery
(Butterflies and Bumblebees Pre-School Groups)
Crumlin**

Inspected: October 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	ABC Day Nursery (Butterflies and Bumblebees Pre-School Groups)
Address:	Building 643 RAF Aldergrove Crumlin Road CRUMLIN Co Antrim BT29 4BN
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	18 October 2007
Date of previous inspection:	1 May 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	44	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	37	-
• funded by Department of Education	37	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	1	-
• 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	82%	-

* Special Educational Needs

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	8	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	7	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: ***	
Students	0
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
2 hours 50 mins	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	44
Percentage returned:	61.4%
Number of written comments:	9

ABC DAY NURSERY (BUTTERFLIES AND BUMBLEBEES PRE-SCHOOL GROUPS), CRUMLIN, CO ANTRIM, BT29 4BN (3AB-0352)

1. The Butterflies and Bumblebees pre-school groups operate as a part of the ABC Day Nursery facility which is situated within RAF Aldergrove. Since the last inspection, there has been a large increase in the number of funded places and the pre-school has changed premises to new purpose-built accommodation. There has also been a complete change of staff including two new room leaders and a newly-appointed early years specialist (EYS).

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and the issues raised have been shared with the staff. Overall there was a high level of satisfaction with most of the provision. There was less satisfaction with the sharing of information and involvement between staff and parents and the training opportunities for the management group. Some parents included responses about the whole day care provision which is not part of this inspection process.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is good. The pre-school centre has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the staff implement these policies and procedures effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and opportunities for energetic physical activity to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The indoor and outdoor play areas provide a bright, attractive and stimulating learning environment which is enhanced with displays of the children's own art work and areas of interest.
- The children appear happy, confident and well settled. They are polite and well-behaved.
- The wide range of activities which are provided facilitate at least satisfactory and almost always good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths evident on the day of the inspection include the development of the children's confidence and independence, the opportunities for music-making, the development of both fine and large motor skills, the opportunities to explore and investigate their environment and the promotion of the children's oral language. During the inspection, the children demonstrated high levels of motivation and interest in their learning and there were very many examples of concentrated and productive play throughout the session.
- The staff support and build on the children's own ideas and often engage in useful discussions which extend the children's language and learning. They are hard-working and committed to the development of the centre.

- The support for children with special educational needs is well balanced; the staff give care and support while promoting the independence and integration of these children into the group.
- The accommodation and resources are very good. The resources are enhanced by the use of natural and authentic items in areas of play. The extensive outdoor area is well used to provide a rich range of learning opportunities which the children clearly enjoy.

6. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention.

- The staff should develop further their skills in planning programmes to support children with special educational needs.
- There is a need to review and extend communication with the parents and develop methods to engage the parents more fully in the work of the centre and the education of their children.
- Higher profile should be given to the promotion of early mathematical language and ideas, and the use of books.

7. Although the staff regularly evaluate aspects of their work, they are in the early stages of developing a systematic approach to self-evaluation. The pre-school leaders and staff need to develop a stronger sense of team-work and collaboration between the two pre-school rooms. The manager needs to oversee this aspect of the work and plan with the EYS to develop more focused support and training for the staff to ensure the quality of their work is consistently at a high standard.

8. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address. The pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement will be followed-up by monitoring visits, conducted by the District Inspector.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The room used for physical play indoors needs to be cleared of equipment to create a safe space.

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