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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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

**Bligh's Lane Nursery School
Londonderry**

Inspected: November 2006

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON BLIGH'S LANE NURSERY SCHOOL,
LONDONDERRY**

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	27	27
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of SEN**	1	1
At CoP stages 3 or 4***	3	1
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	11	7
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.	59%
Average attendance for the previous year.	89%

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	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	5	0

Number of: ****	
Students	0
Trainees	0

**** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued	54
Percentage returned	63%
Number of written comments	26

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF BLIGH'S LANE NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY, BT48 9PJ (211-6266)

1. The nursery school is situated in purpose built accommodation in the Creggan area of Londonderry. The children come mainly from the surrounding area. Since the last inspection, the building and the outdoor play area have been completely refurbished.

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 high levels of satisfaction with the work of the nursery school.

3. The nursery has an excellent ethos and comprehensive policies and procedures for child protection that comply with the 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 among the children. Very good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a wide range of appropriate energetic physical activities.

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

- The climate of the nursery is caring and supportive, and relationships at all levels are excellent. The settled and purposeful atmosphere helps the children grow in confidence and self-esteem. The children respond well to the high expectations of the staff, and their behaviour is very good.
- The staff have created a very attractive, stimulating and rich learning environment, both indoors and outdoors. The children's work is thoughtfully displayed and a variety of interest areas have been created to extend the children's thinking skills.
- The organisation of the daily timetable is carefully planned and provides a good balance of freely chosen play and activities led by the staff. Routines are unobtrusive and used very effectively to provide choice, and to promote the children's independence and learning.
- The staff provide the children with sustained support during play; their skilful and sensitive interactions with the children are consistently of a very high standard and help to promote the children's language and learning. The adults often develop conversations with the children which stimulate and sustain their interest and promote co-operative and concentrated play.

- The nursery's educational programme offers excellent opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff place particular emphasis on the development of the children's language skills. The children experience a broad range of interesting and stimulating activities which help develop early ideas of science and technology and promote the children's understanding of the world around them.
- The staff provide very effective support for those children with special educational needs. They liaise regularly with the parents and other professional agencies. Individual educational plans have been developed which help to ensure that the children are integrated into the nursery programme and make progress in their learning.
- The detailed and systematic systems of planning and assessment provide effective guidance for the staff in their day-to-day work with the children. There is evidence within this documentation of progression in the children's learning across the pre-school year.
- The nursery staff have developed an effective programme of liaison with parents; a wide variety of methods is used to encourage the parents to play a full role in the education of their children and to contribute to the life of the nursery school.
- The nursery premises are currently being used for part of the week to provide an extended day for those children who wish to avail of this service. The staff have agreed a comprehensive policy for the development of this service and additional funding has been accessed to resource the provision. The extended school initiative is effectively managed and parents have commented that the service is welcomed and valued.
- The Principal brings a high level of skill and enthusiasm to her work. She demonstrates a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and to the ongoing development of the nursery. She provides an excellent role-model in her work with the children, and manages the nursery very effectively. There is a strong sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff.

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 begun to document evidence of improved provision and practice.

7. The quality of education provided in this nursery is excellent. 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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