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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

**Carrick Pre-School
Warrenpoint**

Inspected: October 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Carrick Pre-School
Address:	61 Ballydesland Road Burren WARRENPOINT Co Down BT34 3QA
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	15 October 2007
Date of previous inspection:	N/A

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	24	-
• funded by Department of Education	23	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	2	-
• 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	87.4%	-

188Special Educational Needs

** 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	0
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year 2

3. Details of Sessions

Duration of morning session	Duration of afternoon session	Number of days open in previous year
3 hours	N/A	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	54.2%
Number of written comments:	5

**CARRICK PRE-SCHOOL, BURREN, WARRENPOINT, CO DOWN, BT34 3QA
(5AB-0538)**

1. The centre is located in a classroom in Carrick Primary School. The children come mainly from the immediate and surrounding area.

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. In their responses, nearly all of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision. Some of the parents added written comments which highlighted the positive ethos of the centre and the hard work of the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the centre is very good. The centre has procedures in place which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) Circulars.

4. The pre-school'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 physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The positive ethos helps to promote a settled, caring atmosphere and excellent relationships at all levels. The staff create an attractive and stimulating learning environment and make good use of the children's art work in displays.
- There are good to very good opportunities for learning in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. There are particular strengths in the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, raising mathematical awareness and the attention given to developing the children's creative ideas.
- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner and the quality of the interaction is consistently of a high standard.
- The staff follow the High Scope programme in their work with the children and have developed a comprehensive approach to planning a pre-school curriculum that provides breadth, variety and progression in the experiences and activities for the children.
- The detailed methods of assessment take account of the children's responses to activities and help to ensure the needs of all the children are well met.
- The centre has established very good links with the parents and the adjoining primary school.
- The acting-leader is highly dedicated and provides effective leadership for the hard-working staff who work very well as a team.

6. The staff have started to implement some useful methods of self-evaluation. Appropriate areas have been identified for development and progress has been made in enhancing the quality of the learning environment and reviewing the organisation of the daily routine.

7. At the time of the inspection the centre did not have an early years specialist to support their work. This matter is currently being addressed.

8. The pre-school centre has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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