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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

**Carrowdore Early Years Centre
Newtownards, Co Down**

Inspected: March 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Carrowdore Early Years Centre
Address:	Carrowdore Primary School Castle Place Carrowdore NEWTOWNARDS Co Down BT22 2JJ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	12 March 2007
Date of previous inspection:	26 April 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	21	-
• funded by Department of Education	21	-
• 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	93%	-

* 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	2	1
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	1
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
2¾ hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	58.3%
Number of written comments:	12

CARROWDORE EARLY YEARS CENTRE, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN BT22 2JJ (4BB-0375)

1. The centre is situated in the grounds of Carrowdore Primary School. The children come from a wide catchment 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 and shared with the staff. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the centre's work.

3. The pre-school centre has a written policy for child protection which is shared with the parents, and is in line with the guidance given by the Department of Education. The staff understand and implement the procedures necessary to safeguard the welfare of the children.

4. The pre-school centre demonstrates a commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle among the children. Regular opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a range of appropriate physical activities.

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

- The centre has a very positive, welcoming ethos characterised by the good working relationships at all levels.
- The behaviour of the children is very good; they co-operate well with one another and demonstrate good levels of concentration in their chosen activities.
- The smooth organisation of the day ensures that all time is used effectively to promote the children's learning.
- The range of interesting and imaginative activities provided stimulates the children's curiosity and promotes satisfactory or good learning in all areas of the pre-school programme; early literacy and the development of the children's own creativity are particular strengths.
- The staff meet regularly to plan the curriculum. The planning indicates an interesting range of activities is provided for the children throughout the year. As the staff continue to develop the planning, more account needs to be taken of how the activities become increasingly more challenging for the children as the year progresses.
- During the inspection, there were many examples of effective interaction between the staff and the children that helped to extend the children's thinking and learning.
- The staff make good efforts to address the needs of those children who require additional support with their learning.

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

- The staff should develop further aspects of the assessment methods in order to support the children's learning in all areas.

7. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. They should now begin to put more emphasis on the gathering of evidence to demonstrate improvement. Since the last inspection, the leader has taken over the role as the centre's early years specialist. The management group should continue to monitor the role of the early years specialist in order to ensure that the development needs of the centre are met effectively.

8. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral 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 monitored by the District Inspector.

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APPENDIX

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- On the day of the inspection the playroom was very cold.