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**Department of Education  
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Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

#### **Early Learners Day Nursery Belfast**

**Inspected: April 2008**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Early Learners Day Nursery
<b>Address:</b>	30 Windsor Avenue BELFAST BT9 6EJ
<b>Management Type:</b>	Private

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	29 April 2008
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	21 March 2002

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	25	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
• funded by Department of Education	19	-
• 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	1	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	98%	-

\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

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

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	1
Trainees	0

\*\* Total placements since September of current year

## 3. Details of Sessions

<b>Duration of morning session</b>	<b>Duration of afternoon session</b>	<b>Number of days open in previous year</b>
3½ hours	-	194

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	25
Percentage returned:	60%
Number of written comments:	9

## **EARLY LEARNERS DAY NURSERY, BELFAST, BT9 6EJ (1CA-0411)**

1. The pre-school centre is part of the Early Learners Day Nursery. It is located in a parish building within the grounds of St Bride's Primary School, Belfast. Since the last inspection the centre has changed premises, and a new member of staff and a new early years specialist (EYS) have been appointed.

2. The parents and staff were given the opportunity to express their views about the pre-school centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses from the parents indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the provision. A number of parents included written comments praising the work of the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has some strengths. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that some further action is needed to ensure the designated person responsible for child protection updates her training and that relevant policies and procedures are shared with all of the parents.

4. The pre-school centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, with a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily and be physically active.

### **5. The main strengths within the pre-school centre's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.**

- There is a very positive ethos characterised by a warm, homely atmosphere based on very good relationships between the staff and the children.
- The children are generally well behaved. The staff are aware of those children who require additional support to develop their social skills.
- The staff are caring and supportive and there were examples when they promoted a range of learning and language through the play activities.
- There are satisfactory or good opportunities to learn in all six areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths include the high levels of concentrated and co-operative play displayed by many of the children, the detailed art work and the promotion of early mathematical ideas and language through the play.
- On the day of the inspection, the wide range of activities provided outdoors promoted good levels of response from the children.
- There are good links with the adjoining primary school to which most of the children transfer.
- There is a strong sense of team-work among the hard-working staff.

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

- The written planning should be developed further to ensure there is sufficient detail to guide staff in their day-to-day work.
- The pre-school centre requires a more systematic approach to recording the children's progress and this information should be used to link the support and activities more closely to the children's interests and stages of development.
- The staff should continue to develop their skills in building on the children's own interests and help them develop their own creative ideas, imagination, investigation and problem-solving.

7. Until recently, the pre-school centre has received inadequate advice and guidance and ongoing training from their EYS. The staff should work closely with their newly appointed EYS to draw up a development plan and associated actions to make the necessary improvements.

8. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The entrance area was inadequately monitored during the children's arrival.
- The kitchen area was unsupervised and accessible to the children during the session.
- The staff toilets are accessed through the children's toilet area.

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