



*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

**Glenbank Nursery School
Belfast**

Inspected: June 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GLENBANK NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST (111-0007)

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	26	-
Attending part-time	0	-
Under 3 years of age*	0	-
With a statement of special educational needs	0	-
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	4	-
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	4	-
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	3	-
With English as an additional language	2	-

* On 1 July.

** 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.	50%
Average attendance for the previous year.	90%

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
Monday and Tuesday (5¼ hours)	-	-
Wednesday and Thursday (4¾ hours)		
Friday (3¾ hours)		

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	1	0
Nursery Assistants	1	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	0

Number of: ***	
Students	8
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)

Number issued	26
Number returned	73.1%
Number of written comments	12

GLENBANK NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT14 8BW (111-0007)
INSPECTED: 1 JUNE 2009

1. The nursery school is situated just off the Ligoniel Road in north Belfast. The children come mainly from the local area. Since the last inspection, a new nursery assistant has been appointed and the outdoor area has been landscaped and improved resources provided.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the staff and the Board of Governors (governors) to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and 12 made additional written comments. Those who responded indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the quality of the overall provision including their appreciation of the approachable and caring staff, the wide range of activities provided, and the progress their children make. The governors' responses were also positive and highlighted their confidence in the staff and the high level of value they placed on the work within the nursery. The staff responses also indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the school.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is good. The strengths include the very warm, caring working relationships between the staff and the children and the children's very good behaviour.

4. The nursery has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

5. The nursery gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The children are provided with a healthy break and have very good opportunities for energetic play.

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

- The very attractive and stimulating outdoor learning environment which fosters high levels of enjoyment and engagement in the children's play.
- The satisfactory to very good opportunities for the children to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths observed included the children's well developed personal and social skills, good examples of co-operative play, the opportunities to develop gross and fine motor skills and their good listening skills.
- The many visitors to the nursery along with a wide range of visits to places of interest which broadens and enhances the children's learning opportunities.
- The good support being given to those children identified with special needs.

- The continuing development of good, productive links with parents, the local and international community.
- The good quality accommodation and resources.

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

- To improve the opportunities to promote the children's imaginative play along with their early literacy, and to develop approaches to engage the boys more fully in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum.
- Further develop the short-term written planning to ensure there is sufficient detail to guide the adults in their interactions with the children in order to promote learning more consistently through the daily play activities.
- Continue to develop the assessment methods to systematically record sufficient information which can be used to specifically target support and meet the needs and interests of all the children.

8. The Principal is well-organised and is a good role-model in her own interactions with the children. She has worked hard to develop the provision, including the strengthening of links between the nursery school and a range of other organisations and the good development of the outdoor play area. The school has a development plan which highlights some appropriate areas for continued development. The plan now needs to be amended in light of the inspection findings and should be more clearly focused on outcomes for the children, the actions to be taken and appropriate success criteria.

9. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the nursery school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the nursery school has the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the nursery school's progress on the areas for improvement.

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