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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

Good Shepherd Nursery School
Dunmurry, Belfast

Inspected: November 2006

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOOD SHEPHERD NURSERY SCHOOL,
DUNMURRY, BELFAST**

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	26	26
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	7	6
With statement of SEN**	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4***	0	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	8	8
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.	31%
Average attendance for the previous year.	82%

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	2	3
Qualified Nursery Assistants	5	0

Number of: ****	
Students	2
Trainees	0

**** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued	54
Percentage returned	44.4%
Number of written comments	8

**GOOD SHEPHERD NURSERY SCHOOL, DUNMURRY, BELFAST, BT17 0PL
(413-6286)**

1. Good Shepherd Nursery School is situated in the Poleglass estate. Since the last inspection, building work has been completed to relocate and enhance the entrance area and to provide an office, a room for the parents and a new toilet facility. An increasing number of underage children are enrolling for places in the nursery. Additional family services including a breakfast club and after-school club are located in a temporary classroom within the nursery grounds.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery through the inspection questionnaires. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision. A number of parents wrote comments praising the work of the staff.

3. The nursery has an excellent ethos and comprehensive policies and procedures for child protection that comply with the Department of Education (DE) 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 commitment to promoting healthy eating habits. There are regular opportunities for the children to participate in a range of physical activities. The planned re-development of the outdoor area will enhance further these opportunities.

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

- there are excellent working relationships at all levels based on a strong sense of mutual respect between all of the staff and the children;
- the children are very well behaved; they respond willingly to the staff's high levels of expectation. They are settled and purposeful both during their own freely chosen play and during group sessions;
- the staff work hard to create an attractive learning environment. They have recently relocated to the main building following extensive building work. The Principal is in the process of reviewing the most effective use of all of the available space;
- very effective use is made of all time to promote the children's learning. There is a good balance between periods of extended free play and more adult directed group sessions which the children clearly enjoy;
- the staff are all sensitive and supportive as they engage with the children. They are skilful in their interactions with them; in particular, they promote very effectively the children's oral language, listening skills, social skills and emotional well-being;

- the children have access to a broad range of activities which promote learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children demonstrate high levels of enjoyment, motivation and concentration during their play. During the inspection, there were many examples of sustained co-operative and imaginative play. The children also show a strong level of interest in books, stories, rhymes and early marking;
- there are very effective links with the parents. A particular feature of the nursery is the promotion and development of the parent's own continued education and the provision of additional services to support the families;
- the nursery has a high number of children with speech and language delays and other specific needs. The staff know their children well and are aware of those who require additional support. They make effective use of the services of a wide range of other health and education professionals to provide an integrated approach to meeting the children's additional needs;
- there is excellent team-work among the hard-working staff who are fully committed to the development and welfare of the children; and
- the Principal is an effective leader who serves as a good role-model in her own work with the children. She has a clear vision for the future of the nursery school as a pivotal facility providing quality integrated early years services within the community.

6. The school development plan identifies some key areas for improvement. The Principal has an understanding of how she intends to continue to develop the nursery provision. This outline should now be complemented with clear action plans to guide systematically the school's development programme.

7. The nursery 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 nursery's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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