



*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**

**Harrison Nursery School  
Lurgan**

**Inspected: May 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON HARRISON NURSERY SCHOOL, LURGAN

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Attending full-time	26	26
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of SEN**	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4***	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	0	0
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.	2
Average attendance for the previous year.	92%

### 2. Duration of Sessions

<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time: am</b>	<b>Part-time: pm</b>
4¾ hours	-	-

### 3. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	2	1 (Temp – Special Educational Needs)
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	1

<b>Number of: ****</b>	
Students	3
Trainees	0

\*\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

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

Number issued	50
Percentage returned	42%
Number of written comments	16

**HARRISON NURSERY SCHOOL, LURGAN, CO ARMAGH, BT66 8SU (511-6190)**  
**INSPECTED: 21 MAY 2007**

1. The nursery is situated on the outskirts of Lurgan. The children come mainly from the surrounding area. Since the last inspection a new principal and a temporary assistant teacher have been appointed and refurbishment work to the building has been carried out.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and the comments made and points for clarification have been shared with the staff. In their responses, most of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the nursery's provision. Many of the parents added written comments which highlighted the very positive ethos of the nursery, the interesting and varied experiences on offer to the children and the commitment of the hard-working staff to the care and well-being of the children. The inspection team endorses all of these views.

3. The nursery has a comprehensive policy on child protection that complies with the guidance given by the Department of Education. The staff are aware of, and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children.

4. The nursery demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle among the children. Very good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a wide range of energetic physical activities.

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

- There is an excellent ethos which promotes very good relationships at all levels and a happy, caring atmosphere throughout the school. The staff have given much thought to creating an attractive, stimulating and well-organised learning environment which is used well to promote learning and to celebrate the children's work and achievements. The children are friendly and well behaved; they display a very positive attitude to learning.
- The staff spend sustained periods with the children and exploit fully every opportunity to promote the children's language and learning. During the inspection, the quality of the interaction was always very good and at times it was excellent, as a result the play was often purposeful and productive.
- The organisation of the timetable is carefully planned and provides a good balance of freely chosen play and activities and routines organised by the staff. The children display high levels of confidence and independence in their play and participate willingly at all stages of the daily programme.
- There are excellent opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff place particular emphasis on the development of the children's personal, social and emotional development and their language and creative skills; they often develop conversations with the children and ask appropriate questions which stimulate and sustain their interest and promote co-

operative and concentrated play. The children experience a broad range of interesting and stimulating activities which help to develop early ideas of science and promote the children's understanding of the world around them. Much of the children's art work around the walls consists of detailed representational drawings and paintings based on first-hand experiences. The nursery has a large variety of interesting pets which further enhance the programme; the children have opportunities to overcome any fears or anxieties they may have and to help to care for the animals.

- The staff provide very effective support for the children with special educational needs. They liaise regularly with the parents and other professional agencies. Individual educational plans are drawn up which help ensure the children make progress in their learning.
- The staff have designed appropriate methods of planning and assessment. Regular observations of the children's responses to play are kept and are used to build up an accurate profile of each child's progress and development. The information is used to inform the planning and is also shared with the parents. The planning is detailed and is used effectively to guide the staff in their work with the children.
- There is an effective programme of liaison with the parents; a wide variety of methods is used to encourage them to play a full role in the education of their children and to contribute to the life of the nursery.
- The Principal has been in post for 18 months and brings a high level of skill and enthusiasm to her work. She demonstrates a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and to the ongoing development of the nursery. She is an excellent role-model and manages the nursery very effectively. She is ably supported by her hard-working and dedicated staff who contribute to the overall effectiveness of the nursery.

6. The nursery has a comprehensive School Development Plan with appropriate targets for improvement. The staff have developed very good methods of self-evaluation and there is much evidence that the process has led to improvements in the children's learning experiences.

7. The quality of education provided in this nursery is excellent. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being very 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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