

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ladybird Lane Pre-School,
Banbridge

Report of an Inspection
in March 2010

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Ladybird Lane Pre-school
Address:	55 Castlewellan Road BANBRIDGE Co Down BT32 4JF
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	1 March 2010
Date of previous inspection:	N/A

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	16	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	15	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	13	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	4	-
• 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	94.8%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	1	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	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
3 hours	-	184

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	13
Percentage returned:	46%
Number of written comments:	3

LADYBIRD LANE PRE-SCHOOL, BANBRIDGE, CO DOWN, BT32 4JF (5CA-0558)

1. Ladybird Lane Pre-school is located in the Ladybird Lane Day Nursery on the main Castlewellan Road in Banbridge.
2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management committee and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. The responses from the questionnaires were generally very positive. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school centre.
3. The provision for pastoral care within the pre-school is good.
4. The pre-school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments but the following area needs to be addressed:
 - a detailed 'Intimate Care' policy should be drawn up within the main child protection policy and shared with the parents.
5. The pre-school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating. The Ladybird Lane Day Nursery was awarded the 'Boost Better Breaks Award' 2009/2010. There are regular opportunities provided for physical activity outdoors.
6. The vast majority of the children display a keen interest in the range of activities on offer and demonstrate a good level of independence. While the majority of the children engage in purposeful, productive and sustained play, the behaviour of a few children, at times, is challenging. The staff need to implement more effective behaviour management strategies when such incidents occur. Good efforts are made by the staff to address the individual needs of the children and links have been established with appropriate support agencies.
7. The staff are patient and supportive and engage readily with the children to support their language development and learning. Throughout the session, there were many examples of good quality interaction between the staff and the children; the children engage in valuable discussion and talk about, their learning experiences, ideas, feelings and achievements. The majority of the children listen attentively during individual and group story sessions and explore the books located around the room.
8. The learning environment is enhanced with displays incorporating some of the children's art work; in the planned art activities more emphasis should be placed on the process rather than the end product. There is an adequate range of good quality resources within the pre-school; however a broader range is required for outdoor play in order to support a more progressively challenging programme. Aspects of the organisation of the daily timetable and the use of the different play areas should be reviewed to ensure that all time and space is used more effectively to promote learning.
9. The staff have made a good start in planning a varied pre-school programme through the use of themes and topics. They know the children very well and operate a key worker system to assist them in the monitoring of their progress and development. There is evidence that the observations of the children's responses to play inform the planning of the next stage of the programme. The staff provide opportunities throughout the year to engage with the parents about their children's progress and development.

10. The leader and her assistant are hard-working and both demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment to the work of the pre-school. The staff have not yet embarked on a formal process of self-evaluation. While the early year's specialist has provided some valuable support to the staff, it will be important to focus more regular future support on the key areas identified for improvement within this report.

11. The key strengths in this pre-school include:

- the friendly caring ethos and the children's positive attitude to learning;
- the good relationships between the staff and the children;
- the system in place to monitor and record the children's progress and development;
- the good efforts made to address the learning difficulties experienced by some of the children; and
- the hard-working and committed staff.

12. The priorities identified for further development include the need to:

- include a detailed 'Intimate Care' policy within the main child protection policy and share this with the parents; and
- review aspects of the organisation of the daily timetable and the use of the different play areas to ensure that all time and space is used more effectively to promote learning.

13. In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in the pre-school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards and learning and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

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