



*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

**Lavey Early Years Group
Magherafelt**

Inspected: April 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Lavey Early Years Group
Address:	63a Mayogall Road Knockloughrim MAGHERAFELT Co Londonderry BT45 8PG
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	20 April 2009
Date of previous inspection:	11 February 2004

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	23	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	23	-
• 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	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	95%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	4	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	4	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: **	
Students	2
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
2½ hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned:	35%
Number of written comments:	6

**LAVEY EARLY YEARS GROUP, KNOCKLOUGHRIM, MAGHERAFELT,
CO LONDONDERRY, BT45 8PG (3AB-0122)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated near the village of Gulladuff and is accommodated in premises owned by the local parish. The pre-school centre has access to a secure outdoor play area. Since the last inspection, a new playgroup assistant was appointed and took up post in September 2005.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A significant minority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and six made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicated that all the parents regard the pre-school centre very highly and appreciate that:

- the staff are concerned for the well-being of the children;
- the parents are kept well-informed about their children's learning; and
- the pre-school centre is well thought of in the community.

The responses from the management group and the staff were wholly positive and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the pre-school centre. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school centre.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the pre-school centre is very good. The ethos is one of mutual respect and working relationships at all levels are very good. The children are happy, settled and their behaviour is very good.

4. The pre-school centre has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

5. The pre-school centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The pre-school centre has achieved a "Boost Better Breaks" award and the children have regular opportunities for energetic physical play.

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

- The staff have created an attractive and stimulating learning environment indoors and outside. Materials are thoughtfully presented to promote the children's independence and their confidence in making choices and decisions.
- The programme is based on High/Scope principles; it is carefully planned and the staff are very skilful in listening to the children, building on their ideas and extending their language and thinking skills.

- The children show high levels of interest and involvement in the broad range of activities provided. Their play is settled and purposeful; their language and communication skills are well developed and they show a good understanding of early mathematical ideas.
- There are very good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff are particularly effective in promoting early literacy and mathematical experiences and the children's interest and understanding of the world around them.
- The pre-school centre provides very good support for those children with special educational needs. Individual educational and care plans have been developed and effective links have been established with other health professionals.
- The staff have developed effective methods of involving the parents in their children's learning. They organise curriculum workshops and provide opportunities for the parents to contribute to the evaluation process.

7. The leader manages the pre-school centre very effectively. The staff team is well established and very experienced, and they have a sound understanding of the pre-school curriculum. Roles and responsibilities are appropriately shared and the provision is regularly evaluated. Since the last inspection, the many strengths identified have been sustained. The early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The support provided is well focused, in particular, the regular evaluation of practice and provision. The pre-school centre has a comprehensive development plan which prioritises appropriate areas for review and improvement.

8. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is very good. The pre-school centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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