

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Legacurry Playgroup,
Lisburn

Report of an Inspection
in April 2010

eti

*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



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Legacurry Playgroup
Address:	Upper Ballynahinch Road LISBURN Co Antrim BT27 5EY
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	26 April 2010
Date of previous inspection:	23 January 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	32	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	22	-
• funded by Department of Education	22	-
• 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	1	-
• 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	80.7%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	5
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	5
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	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
2½ hours	N/A	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	32
Percentage returned:	50%
Number of written comments:	7

LEGACURRY PLAYGROUP, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT27 5EY (4AB-0438)

1. Legacurry Playgroup is accommodated in the Youth Hall in the grounds of Legacurry Church. Since the last inspection, there have been changes in staff; two new assistants have been employed. The children come from the surrounding rural area.

2. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The pre-school centre has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

3. The children respond well to the staff's expectations and their behaviour is excellent. They choose freely from the wide range of activities on offer, are highly motivated and show good concentration and co-operation in their chosen activities. During the inspection, the children were often observed engaging in purposeful play and using appropriate mathematical language in play situations. The children's development of early mathematical awareness, language and creativity was particularly evident as the children engaged in the various activities provided.

4. High priority is given to developing the children's language through skilful talk and discussion, and the consistent introduction by staff, of a rich vocabulary and range of ideas. Books are incorporated into play areas; children are often seen browsing in the book area or exploring an information book linked to the current topic. Very good opportunities are provided for the children to experiment with marking and writing; many display ability in early writing.

PROVISION FOR LEARNING

5. The learning environment is attractive and stimulating; good use is made of the children's own art work and topical displays to enhance the learning environment. The sustained involvement by the staff in the children's play promotes settled and productive play and good quality interactions among the staff and the children. During the inspection, the staff often engaged the children in valuable discussion about their play and experiences, and provided good role-models, and encourage them appropriately to observe, to think, to make choices and to extend their play. The daily timetable is very well organised to provide a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The children benefit from sustained periods of uninterrupted play. The daily snack, and other necessary routines, are organised very effectively to develop the children's mathematical language, independence, social and conversational skills.

6. The centre's curriculum is broad and balanced, offers excellent opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum and promotes effectively the children's all round development.

7. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the pre-school centre is outstanding. The staff treat the children with care and respect and provide a secure, supportive environment which is helping the children to grow in confidence, independence and consideration for others. There are excellent working relationships at all levels.

8. The centre has very good, comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

9. The pre-school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity; for example, as part of the snack routine the children are encouraged to try a range 'healthy' foods' and they have regular opportunities to engage in physical activity. This provision encourages the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

10. The leader, who has been in post for the past ten years, is an excellent role-model in her work with the children; she is well-organised and a good administrator; she is effective in promoting a strong team-spirit among the hard-working staff. All of the staff have a caring approach and evince enjoyment in their work with the children. Since the last inspection, they have attended a wide range of training and development courses; there is evidence that the training is having a positive impact on the overall quality of the centre's provision. The pre-school centre has a development plan with appropriate targets for improvement. The staff have developed useful methods of self-evaluation and there is evidence that the process has led to improvements in the children's experiences provided during outdoor play. The staff value the support provided by the centre's early years specialist.

11. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Sixteen of the parents responded to the questionnaire and seven made additional written comments; all of the comments were very positive and indicate a high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the centre's work; in particular, the parents praised the dedication and care shown to the children by the hard-working, friendly and approachable staff. The responses from the management group and the staff questionnaires were also very positive. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school centre.

12. The key strengths in this pre-school centre include:

- the children's development of early mathematical ideas, language and creativity and their exemplary behaviour;
- the excellent ethos, the very attractive environment and the wide range of interesting activities which stimulate the children's learning and curiosity;
- the organisation of the daily timetable which ensures that all time is used effectively for learning;
- the quality of the staff's interaction with the children which is consistently of a high standard;
- the well-planned curriculum, which provides excellent opportunities for learning in all areas of the programme; and
- the effective leadership provided by the leader, and the team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff.

13. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The playgroup has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk

