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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

**Millington Nursery School
Portadown**

Inspected: February 2007

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON MILLINGTON NURSERY SCHOOL,
PORTADOWN, CO ARMAGH, BT62 3HE (511-6189)**

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	26	27
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of SEN**	0	1
At CoP stages 3 or 4***	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	2	3
With English as an additional language	2	2

* 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.	11%
Average attendance for the previous year.	90

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
4¾ hours	-	-

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	2	4
Qualified Nursery Assistants	2	2

Number of: ****	
Students	0
Trainees	0

**** Total placements since September of current year

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

Number issued	53
Percentage returned	47.2%
Number of written comments	10

**MILLINGTON NURSERY SCHOOL, PORTADOWN, CO ARMAGH, BT62 3HE
(511-6189) INSPECTION DATE: 26 FEBRUARY 2007**

1. The nursery is situated in Craigavon Avenue, Portadown, in grounds adjacent to Millington Primary School. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes. The Principal was appointed in November 2006 and took up position in January 2007. The children come from the surrounding area.

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 any issues raised have been shared with the staff. Those who responded expressed satisfaction with nearly all aspects of the nursery's provision.

3. The nursery has a written policy for child protection which is shared with the parents, and is in line with the guidance given by the Department of Education. The staff understand and implement the procedures necessary to safeguard the welfare of the children.

4. The school has a programme for the promotion of the health and well-being of the children. There is a commitment to promoting healthy eating, and very good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a range of physical activities.

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

- There is a very positive ethos based on good working relationships at all levels. The children make full use of, and clearly enjoy, the attractive learning environment created for them by the staff. The children display a positive attitude to their learning; they respond well to the high expectations of the staff and their behaviour is exemplary.
- The nursery has established valuable links with the parents; there are plans to develop these further.
- There are very good learning opportunities in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's language are particular strengths.
- There is a thoughtful approach to planning an interesting and varied programme for the children.
- The methods of assessment take account of the children's responses to activities and help to ensure the needs of all the children are well met.
- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner and the quality of the interaction is consistently of a high standard.
- The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff.

- The Principal is highly dedicated and committed to the future development of the nursery. She provides effective leadership for the hard-working staff who work very well as a team. She sets the tone for much of the positive work and development of the nursery.

6. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention.

- The staff need to establish a common approach to the methods of assessment and planning to ensure consistency throughout the school.
- The staff need to review and develop further the effective use of resources.

7. The Principal has drawn up a comprehensive school development plan with appropriate targets for improvement. The staff are at an early stage in the process of self-evaluation.

8. The nursery has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the nursery has the capacity to address.

The nursery's progress on the areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The main wall socket in the office is overloaded.
- At the time of the inspection the fire alarm was not working and a substitute whistle system was in operation.

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