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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

**Squirrel's Montessori Nursery
Enniskillen**

Inspected: November 2006

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Squirrel's Montessori Nursery
Address:	Rossorry Church Road ENNISKILLEN Co Fermanagh BT74 7HB
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	22 November 2006
Date of previous inspection:	27 March 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	16	16
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	10
• funded by Department of Education	16	7
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	3
• with a statement of SEN*	0	0
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	0	0
• with English as an additional language	0	1
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	0
Attendance:		
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	95%	95%

* Special Educational Needs

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	2	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	0
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	2½ hours	195

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned:	60.9%
Number of written comments:	10

**SQUIRREL'S MONTESSORI NURSERY, ENNISKILLEN, CO FERMANAGH,
BT74 7HB (2AA-0348)**

1. The nursery is situated in a purpose-built mobile classroom within the town boundary. The children come from the surrounding area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities through the inspection questionnaires to express their views about the nursery. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision. A number of parents included written comments which praised highly the work of the staff.

3. The nursery has a caring ethos and appropriate policies and procedures for child protection are in place. The inspection evidence indicates that all of the staff show a high level of care for the children's welfare and implement the policies and procedures effectively. It is appropriate that the policies are regularly reviewed and updated.

4. The nursery demonstrates a commitment to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. The children have regular opportunities to participate in some energetic physical play activities.

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

- There is a welcoming and supportive atmosphere within the playroom. Relationships at all levels are very good.
- There are good links with the parents, information on the nursery's activities and details of the individual children's progress are provided regularly.
- The daily timetable and necessary routines are well-organised to make effective use of all of the time to promote learning.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides good opportunities for learning across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children show enthusiasm and sustain concentrated learning.
- The staff interact skilfully with the children; questioning is used very effectively to develop the children's language and to extend their ideas and thinking.
- There are many good opportunities for the children to develop their fine motor skills and to engage in safe physical play.
- The staff are well aware of the individual needs of the children and plan effectively to stimulate their interest and to provide challenging learning experiences.
- There are excellent opportunities for the children to explore and experiment using natural materials and Montessori equipment. The development of the children's mathematical and scientific learning is a key feature of the planned programme.

- The staff maintain comprehensive records of the children's progress and development, including when relevant, detailed information on any children with special educational needs.
- The proprietor, in her role as both the leader and early years specialist makes a significant contribution to the promotion of good quality provision for the children. The hard-working and dedicated assistant leader provides excellent support.

6. The recording of the self-evaluation process is at an early stage of development. The staff plan together and have a good shared understanding of the learning to be promoted and how it will progress over the year. The planning is implemented effectively by all of the staff. The weekly evaluations and detailed assessment records on the children's progress are used effectively to ensure there is a close match between the planning and the needs of the children.

7. The nursery has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being 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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