



*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

**The Academy Nursery School
Londonderry**

Inspected: April 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON ACADEMY NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	27	0
Attending part-time	26	26
Under 3 years of age*	12	8
With statement of special educational needs	1	1
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	2	2
With English as an additional language	0	2

* On 1 July.

** 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.	12
Average attendance for the previous year.	96%

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
4½ hours	2½ hours	2½ hours

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	1	2
Qualified Nursery Assistants	0	0

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	78
Percentage returned	74.4%
Number of written comments	37

ACADEMY NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY, BT48 7LH (211-6023)
INSPECTED: 14 APRIL 2008

1. The nursery school is situated in the city of Londonderry in the Rosemount district. The children come from a wide catchment area across the City. Since the last inspection in 2000 the Principal and teacher have remained in post and some new additional members of staff have joined the team.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery school through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and all those who responded were highly praising of the work of the nursery school. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicate that the parents regard highly and strongly support:

- the helpful parent education classes and information compiled about the children;
- the care and support provided for the children by the staff; and
- the extended services offered including the provision of story sacks to interest the children in books.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the nursery school is very good. The nursery school has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection that comply with Department of Education circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that these policies and procedures are implemented effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The nursery school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles; the children, for example, have been involved in the Smart Snacks Award.

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

- There is an orderly, caring and supportive learning environment provided and the children readily settle on arrival in the playrooms to enjoy a wide choice of play activities.
- Relationships are very good at all levels and the children are effectively growing in confidence, self-esteem and independence; the staff are praising of all their ideas and patiently facilitate the development of the children's interests.
- There are many instances of good quality play in all areas of the pre-school curriculum with very good opportunities for the children to learn to observe, explore and communicate, particularly in the outdoor area.
- The quality of the resources and the accommodation is excellent. Much effort has been made to create a child-centred nursery school wherein the children can feel safe and secure.

- The Principal, teacher and classroom assistants work effectively as a team to provide a wide range of learning experiences for the children. They receive excellent support from the parents and the Board of Governors.

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

- There is a need to further strengthen the links between planning and assessment methods in order to effect continuous improvement in the children's progress and development, particularly for those children experiencing difficulties in their learning.
- To develop further the processes of self-evaluation and action-planning for improvement.

7. The staff have made an early start to self-evaluation. There is a need to set in place structures to action plan for the identified priorities in the school development plan in order to improve the capacity of the leadership to effectively review, monitor and evaluate the strategic development of the nursery school provision.

8. The nursery school has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the nursery school's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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