



*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

**Tudor Lodge Nursery School
Belfast**

Inspected: May 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON TUDOR LODGE NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	26	26
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	5	4
With a statement of special educational needs	0	0
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	16	15
With English as an additional language	0	0

* 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.	44%
Average attendance for the previous year.	82.63%

2. Duration of Sessions

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

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	2	3
Qualified Nursery Assistants	2	3

Number of: ***	
Students	2
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year

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

Number issued	52
Number returned	40.4%
Number of written comments	7

TUDOR LODGE NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT13 1LY (111-0025)
INSPECTED: 22 MAY 2008

1. The nursery school is situated close to the Crumlin Road in Belfast. The children come from a wide surrounding area. Since the last inspection, a new principal has been appointed and the school has moved to new premises, which are currently being extended to include a parents' room. During the inspection visit, the outdoor play area was restricted due to building work being carried out, and a substitute teacher was employed to cover for the absence through illness of the assistant teacher. The nursery has a high percentage (59.6%) of children identified as requiring additional support. There are a number (17%) of underage children attending.

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. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision; a number of respondents included written comments praising the work of the staff. The very small number of issues raised have been shared with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the nursery has strengths. The nursery has policies and procedures for child protection that address the Department of Education circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that some further action is needed to ensure that all areas of the nursery are carefully monitored and supervised by the staff.

4. The nursery gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- There are very good relationships between the staff and the children; the staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the care and well-being of the children.
- The children are familiar with the daily routines which include extended periods of play and effective group story sessions which the children clearly enjoy.
- The staff engage in natural discussions with the children about their experiences. In the best practice, the staff also support the children's thinking and help develop their learning.
- There are satisfactory opportunities to learn in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths observed were the opportunities for the children to care for living things and the good efforts being made to provide for physical play. The highest levels of engagement from the children were during the outdoor play sessions.
- The staff are aware of the children who require additional support and liaise appropriately with the parents and other professionals.

- The Principal has a strong sense of vision and purpose for the development of the nursery, in partnership with the parents and the wider community.

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

- the staff need to take a more consistent approach to the promotion of settled and productive play;
- the staff need to review the layout of the playroom and the resources provided to ensure a closer match to the children's varying stages of development; and
- the assessment information needs to be used more effectively to support the planning of the programme.

7. The nursery has an appropriate development plan which should be amended in light of the inspection findings. The Principal and the staff have made a useful start to developing the processes for self-evaluation.

8. The nursery school has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few important 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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The staff should:

- carry out a risk assessment of the nursery to ensure that all areas are supervised adequately by the staff throughout the session;
- review the use of towels in the bathroom; and
- secure access to the kitchen area.

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