

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Busy Bees Pre-School
Playgroup, Hillsborough

Report of an Inspection
in January 2013



Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



CONTENTS

Section		Page
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Inspection methods and evidence base	1
3.	Overall finding of the inspection	1
4.	Children's achievements	1
5.	Provision for learning	2
6.	Leadership and management	3

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school setting:	Busy Bees Pre-School Playgroup
Address:	Elim Pentecostal Church 85 Moira Road HILLSBOROUGH Co Down BT26 6DX
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	16 January 2013
Date of previous inspection:	

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school setting	40	-
in their immediate pre-school year	40	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	45	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2		-
with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	0	-
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	93%	-

* Special Educational Needs = fewer than five

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	6
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification	0	6
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	0	1
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	6

Number of: ***	
Students	1
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
2¾ hours	-	

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	40
Percentage returned	43%
Number of written comments:	11

1. Introduction

Busy Bees Pre-School Playgroup opened in 1984 and operates in Hillsborough Elim Pentecostal Church on the Moira Road, Hillsborough. The setting runs a dual part-time session.

2. Inspection methods and evidence base

The inspection evaluations are based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from a range of documentation provided by the playgroup.

The views of the parents and staff were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Out of 40 questionnaires issued to the parents, 43% were returned and 11 contained additional written comments. All of the responses indicated a very high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the work of the playgroup. Amongst the strengths highlighted in the parents' written comments were the caring, warm and hardworking staff and the wide range of engaging learning experiences provided for the children. All of the questionnaires issued to the staff and members of the management committee were returned. These also contained highly affirmative comments about the playgroup's provision.

3. Overall finding of the inspection

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

Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements Quality of Provision Leadership and management	Outstanding Outstanding Very Good
--	---

KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

4. Children's Achievements

The quality of the children's achievements is outstanding.

- During the inspection, the children settled very quickly and enthusiastically into their play activities and displayed a positive attitude to their learning. The children's behaviour is excellent; they relate attentively and respectfully to each other and the adults.
- The children move freely and confidently amongst the various play areas in both playrooms. They demonstrate high levels of independence and co-operation across all aspects of their play and regular routines; for example, in how they select, share and manipulate the range of appealing resources and well-chosen equipment provided for them and how they take responsibility for carrying out important tasks within the operation of the buffet break.

- Overall, the children demonstrate excellent progress in their development in relation to the time of the year across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They show very good progress in their developing language; they are keen to talk about, and to show, what they are doing and they listen with high levels of interest and pay close attention during planned and incidental story sessions. Many of the children engage purposefully with real life measuring and craft tools in various aspects of their play; they explore and investigate a wide range of natural materials and demonstrate a keen interest in their environment.
- The children engage very well in, and enjoy, extended periods of imaginative play. They express their creative ideas well using a very good range of materials; their art work and models are highly valued and displayed attractively around the playroom.

5. Provision for Learning

The quality of the provision for learning is outstanding.

- All of the staff's interactions with the children are consistently of a high standard. The adults extend the children's reasoning skills and understanding through appropriately challenging and open-ended questions which encourages the children's curiosity, prompts them to think and give thoughtful and extended responses.
- The carefully planned programme is broad and balanced and takes very good account of the children's interests and their stages of development. The adults encourage the children to develop a curiosity in a wide range of stimulating print based resources, including annotations containing the children's own language presented in context. They use appropriate mathematical language very naturally when participating in the children's free play and organised activities; as a result, many of the children show an early proficiency and interest in counting, sorting, making comparisons and measuring using the appropriate vocabulary well.
- The adults know the children very well and work effectively as a team to ensure that the individual needs of all the children are well met. Their reflective evaluations are based on the children's responses and are used effectively to inform future learning and to develop helpful guidance for planning the rich and well-connected programme.
- The quality of the pastoral care is outstanding. Among the strengths are the excellent relationships and communication links between the staff, the children and their families and the very responsive ways in which the adults engage with the children in their free play activities.
- The playgroup gives very good attention to developing the children's early understanding of healthy lifestyles; the children are provided with a healthy snack and a good range of regular physical activities.

6. Leadership and Management

The quality of leadership and management is very good.

- The leaders provide very good leadership and management in all aspects of the playgroup's provision. Together with the rest of the staff team and the management committee, they are highly committed to providing a high quality pre-school education for all the children. They are very good role-models for the staff, who, in turn, demonstrate a shared understanding of the aims and work of the playgroup. All contribute to the high standards achieved by the children.
- The process of self-evaluation is well embedded in the playgroup. The development plan outlines appropriate priorities for future improvements; it will be important for the staff to monitor more systematically the impact of these improvement actions on the overall quality of the provision.
- The staff receive the support of a specialist from the Early Years Organisation. Since her appointment in 2011, she has made regular visits and provided ongoing guidance in relation to various aspects of the playgroup's provision.
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the playgroup has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

CONCLUSION

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2013

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

