

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Rainbow Private Day Nursery,
Larne

Report of an Inspection
in October 2010

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Rainbow Private Day Nursery
Address:	96 Brustin-Brae Road LARNE Co Antrim BT40 2LJ
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	21 October 2010
Date of previous inspection:	20 October 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school centre	12	-
in their immediate pre-school year	9	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	9	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	3	-
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	96%	-

* 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	1	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
2¾ hours	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	9
Percentage returned:	55.6%
Number of written comments:	2

RAINBOW DAY NURSERY, LARNE, CO ANTRIM, BT40 2LJ (3CA-0137)

1. Rainbow Day Nursery is situated on the Brustin-Brae Road on the outskirts of Larne. A new leader-in-charge was appointed in May 2010; she takes responsibility for the pre-school room within the day nursery.

2. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school room within the day nursery is good. The pre-school room has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the day nursery has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the progress on the areas for improvement.

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

3. Most of the children demonstrate satisfactory to good levels of independence in their personal care, and they are familiar with the daily routines. During the inspection visit, all of the children were purposefully engaged in periods of sustained and concentrated play across a variety of activities both indoors and outdoors. The children were observed playing co-operatively in the imaginative forest created in a tent; modelling and decorating a variety of birds in dough, and playing in sand and water with an interesting variety of natural materials. The children are developing an interest in drawing with attention to detail and realistic representation. As a result of the dynamics of the small group size, the children often look to the staff for support and attention, in resolving conflicts and taking turns. The staff need to encourage the children to develop their independence wherever appropriate.

4. The staff engage in skilful and purposeful discussion and develop interesting conversations around the children's play and the chosen topic. The majority of children speak with developing fluency and clarity; one or two are developing their skill to use simple sentences with greater articulation. The children have good opportunities during their time in the pre-school room to handle and explore a range of books and enjoy stories.

THE PROVISION FOR LEARNING

5. The staff give much thought to creating an inviting and interesting learning environment for the children. Since the staff's review of the use of space for the pre-school room, the children now benefit from distinct areas of play and better use is made of all the available space both indoors and outdoors. Greater attention is now given to promoting displays of the children's work and in creating more inviting interest areas which highlight the children's developing work, experiences and interests. During the inspection, the staff were observed promoting rich mathematical language, sensory awareness and the children's creative and imaginative skills through the chosen topic.

6. The staff are in the process of updating their approach to planning a comprehensive and balanced programme for the children, and in recording and assessing the children's responses and progress. There is already evidence, at this early stage of the year, of the children making sound progress. It will be important for the staff to prioritise the key learning intentions and promote more opportunities for the development of child-initiated play experiences in order to provide challenge and progression throughout the year.

7. The provision for pastoral care within the school is good. Among the strengths are the priority given by the staff to the care and support of the children, the establishment of appropriate rules for safe play, the daily routines, sharing and turn-taking, and respecting one another and the learning environment.

8. The pre-school room has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

9. The pre-school room gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, through for example the opportunity for the children to receive a home cooked meal, the healthy daily snacks and the daily opportunities for the children to play outdoors.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

10. The recently appointed leader-in-charge of the pre-school room is enthusiastic and keen to review and develop the daily experiences for the children through the selected topics. The Proprietor is committed to improve the quality of the provision, and has made significant improvements in key aspects of the provision over recent years.

11. The development plan identifies appropriate priorities for improvement, including planning for, and assessing the children's progress, the physical play programme, and staff training. The staff have developed useful methods of self-evaluation, and there is clear evidence that the process has led to improvements in the children's learning experiences in recent years.

12. The nursery has recently begun to receive support from a new early years specialist employed by the Early Years Organisation.

13. The key strengths of the pre-school room in the day nursery include:

- the happy, caring ethos based on very good relationships between the staff, the children and the parents;
- the high quality of the interaction observed between the staff and the children in promoting the children's care, learning and development;
- the progress made by the children in particular, their developing language and communication skills, science and creative skills and their interest in the world around us;
- the instances of good concentrated play observed; and
- the effective leadership and management of the Proprietor and the very good work to date of the new leader-in-charge of the pre-school room.

14. The areas for improvement include the need:

- to continue to develop the planning and assessment methods in order to ensure that the learning intentions are clear and specific, and that the observations of the children's play are linked into the future plans to provide appropriate challenge and progression in the children's experiences over the year.

15. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school room within the day nursery is good. The pre-school room has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the day nursery has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the progress on the areas for improvement.

QUESTIONNAIRES

- The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Five of the parents responded to the questionnaire and two made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire were very positive and indicated a high level of satisfaction with nearly all aspects of the centre's work; in particular the parents praised the standard of care and dedication of the staff. The responses from the management group and the staff questionnaires were also very positive. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and the Proprietor of the day nursery.

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