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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

**Bees Nees Early Years Centre
Newtownards**

Inspected: November 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name of pre-school centre: | Bees Nees Early Years Centre |
| Address: | 8A Glenard Road NEWTOWNARDS Co Down BT23 4HS |
| Management Type: | Voluntary |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Date of inspection: | 7 November 2007 |
| Date of previous inspection: | 29 May 2002 |

1. Details of Children

| Total number of children: | am session | pm session |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| • attending the pre-school centre | 27 | - |
| • in their immediate pre-school year | 21 | - |
| • funded by Department of Education | 21 | - |
| • qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2 | 0 | - |
| • with a statement of SEN* | 0 | - |
| • without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN | 2 | - |
| • with English as an additional language | 1 | - |
| • 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 | 91% | - |

* 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 | 4 | 0 |
| Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications | 4 | 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 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3 hours | - | 188 |

4. Parental Questionnaires

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Number issued to parents: | 21 |
| Percentage returned: | 73.3% |
| Number of written comments: | 4 |

**BEES NEES EARLY YEARS CENTRE, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN, BT23 4HS
(4AB-0433)**

1. The centre is located in purpose built accommodation on Glenard Road, Newtownards. The children come mainly from the surrounding area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and have been shared with the staff and the management group. A few parents included written comments praising the staff and work of the centre.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is very good. The pre-school centre has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the staff implement these policies and procedures effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The pre-school gives good attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and some physical activity. There are effective policies and programmes in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The centre has a positive, welcoming ethos characterised by the good working relationships at all levels.
- There are friendly relationships and good communication with the parents. The staff use a variety of methods to inform the parents about the educational programme and to encourage them to take an active role in the education of their children.
- There are satisfactory or good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum: physical development is a particular strength of the programme.
- The leader is a good role-model in her work with the children. There is a sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff.

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

- Develop further the methods of assessing the children's progress and use the information to inform the planning to ensure that the children's differing needs are met.
- The staff need to plan for the period of free play more effectively in order to guide their day-to-day work with the children.

- Develop further the centre's policy for special educational needs in order to meet more effectively the needs of those children who require additional support with their learning.

7. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in reviewing aspects of the programme. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has important strengths, including the good working relationship developed with the staff. The staff, with the continued support from the centre's EYS, are well placed to continue the developmental work outlined in this report.

8. The pre-school centre 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 pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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