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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

Busy Bees Playgroup
Newry

Inspected: March 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Busy Bees Playgroup
Address:	St Mary's Community Hall 40 Bridge Road Burren Warrenpoint NEWRY Co Down BT34 3QT
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	7 March 2007
Date of previous inspection:	1 February 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	24	-
• funded by Department of Education	24	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	2	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	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	84.73%	-

* 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	0	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	4
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainees	1

*** 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 ¹ / ₆ hrs	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned:	69.6%
Number of written comments:	10

BUSY BEES PLAYGROUP, BURREN, WARRENPOINT, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 3QT (5AB-0228)

1. The centre is situated in St Mary's Community Hall in the village of Burren. Since the last inspection one new assistant has been appointed.

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. In their response, nearly all of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision.

3. The centre has a suitable written policy on child protection which is in line with the Department of Education guidance. The staff are aware of, and implement, appropriate procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children. The parents are given information about the centre's policy and procedures.

4. The centre implements practices to promote healthy eating habits among the children. There are daily opportunities for the children to participate in a range of physical activities.

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

- There is a very welcoming ethos based on excellent working relationships at all levels. The children display a positive attitude to their learning; they respond well to the high expectations of the staff and their behaviour is generally very good.
- There is good communication with the parents and a range of appropriate methods is used to inform them about the work of the centre.
- There are very good learning opportunities in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the programmes for the children's physical and language development are particular strengths.
- The staff have developed a thoughtful approach to planning a programme that provides breadth and variety in the experiences and activities for the children.
- The detailed methods of assessment take account of the children's responses to activities and are used effectively to inform the planning. The staff are proactive in taking steps to address the individual needs of the children. The leader reports that, while useful specialist advice and guidance have been provided in relation to specific cases, the slow pace of the referral process has not been in the best interest of the children.
- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner and the quality of the interaction is consistently of a high standard.
- The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance of free play and organised activities.

- The leader provides very good leadership and promotes a strong sense of team spirit among the staff who are all committed and contribute effectively to the high quality of the provision.

6. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. They evaluate regularly aspects of the programme and have identified appropriate areas for further development.

7. The pre-school centre has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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