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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

**Ligoniel Pre-School
Belfast**

Inspected: June 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name of pre-school centre: | Ligoniel Pre-School |
| Address: | Ligoniel Family Centre 10 Wolfend Way Ligoniel BELFAST BT14 8PY |
| Management Type: | Voluntary |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Date of inspection: | 1 June 2007 |
| Date of previous inspection: | 16 November 2000 |

1. Details of Children

| Total number of children: | am session | pm session |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| • attending the pre-school centre | 12 | - |
| • in their immediate pre-school year | 8 | - |
| • funded by Department of Education | 9 | - |
| • qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2 | 9 | - |
| • 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 | 87% | - |

* 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 | 1 | 3 |
| Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications | 1 | 3 |
| New appointments within previous 12 months | 0 | 1 |

| 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 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4 hours | - | 193 |

4. Parental Questionnaires

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Number issued to parents: | 12 |
| Percentage returned: | 33.3% |
| Number of written comments: | 0 |

**LIGONIEL PRE-SCHOOL, LIGONIEL FAMILY CENTRE, BELFAST, BT14 8PY
(1AB-0308)**

1. The pre-school centre is a part of a family centre which is accommodated in converted housing within the greater Ligoniel area. The children come from the local area. Since the last inspection, new staff have been appointed including a new leader who took up post in November 2004. A new manager for the family centre was appointed and took up post in November 2004.

2. The pre-school centre has not employed the services of a qualified teacher or early years specialist for six years. This falls below the minimum quality standard required for a group to be a part of the pre-school education expansion programme.

3. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses returned have been taken into account as part of the inspection. The parents and management expressed satisfaction with the provision.

4. The pre-school centre has inadequate policies and procedures for child protection. Action is needed to review and update all pastoral care policies and procedures and share these with the parents as a matter of urgency.

5. The pre-school gives consideration to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. The children have opportunities for daily physical play. These need to be planned for more systematically to ensure they promote the children's learning more effectively and that they make best use of the available space.

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

- The children generally appear happy, confident and independent during the initial part of the session.
- During the initial period of extended free play there were some good examples of concentrated and imaginative play among the more mature girls.
- The most effective engagement of the staff with the children was observed at the puzzle table, during investigation of natural items in the water tray and the language being developed during the hospital role-play.
- The staff are developing some useful links with the parents and are continuing to build on their links with the local library.

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

- The pre-school centre requires more focused leadership and management including the employment of an appropriate qualified teacher or early years specialist.

- The planning needs to be developed further to guide the staff in their daily practice and ensure the implementation of a progressive and challenging pre-school programme.
- The assessment information needs to be used more effectively to match the curriculum and the support of the adults more closely to the children's needs and stages of development.
- The staff need to develop further their skill in promoting settled and productive play and the children's learning, language and thinking more consistently throughout the session.
- The centre's policies and procedures all need to be reviewed and updated.
- The staff need to review the organisation of the latter part of the session to ensure that all of the time is used more effectively to promote learning.

8. The pre-school centre has no written development plan. The staff have received no guidance from an early years specialist and have had limited training since the last inspection. The staff and management need to work together to develop an action plan, which outlines clearly how the areas identified as requiring improvement through this inspection will be addressed.

9. The inspection has identified major shortcomings in the pre-school centre's work. The areas for improvement need to be addressed urgently in the interests of the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor regularly and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The entrance door to the centre was unlocked for most of the session.
- Children used the toilet area which is out of the playroom, unsupervised by a member of staff.

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