

**Little Treasures Day Care  
Nursery  
Cumbernauld  
North Lanarkshire  
5 August 2009**

This report tells you about the quality of education at the centre. We describe how children benefit from learning there. We explain how well they are doing and how good the centre is at helping them to learn. Then we look at the ways in which the centre does this. We describe how well the centre works with other groups in the community, including parents<sup>1</sup> and services which support children. We also comment on how well staff and children work together and how they go about improving the centre.

Our report describes the 'ethos' of the centre. By 'ethos' we mean the relationships in the centre, how well children are cared for and treated and how much is expected of them in all aspects of centre life. Finally, we comment on the centre's aims. In particular, we focus on how well the aims help staff to deliver high-quality learning, and the impact of leadership on the centre's success in achieving these aims.

If you would like to learn more about our inspection of the centre, please visit [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk). Where applicable, the website contains analyses of questionnaire returns and descriptions of good practice in the centre.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, the term 'parents' should be taken to include foster carers and carers who are relatives or friends.

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### **1. The centre**

Little Treasures Day Care Nursery was inspected in June 2009 by HMIE on behalf of both HMIE and the Care Commission as part of the integrated inspection programme. The centre caters for pre-school children aged two to five years. It is registered for 28 children attending at any one session. The total roll was 38 at the time of the inspection.

## **2. Particular strengths of the centre**

- Happy, confident children who enjoy celebrating their achievements.
- The welcoming ethos.
- Children's use of information and communications technology (ICT).
- Opportunities for learning outdoors.
- The commitment of the owner, manager and staff to improving the nursery.

## **3. Examples of good practice**

- Effective use of outdoors.
- Extending children's learning and wider achievements using ICT.

## **4. How well do children learn and achieve?**

### **Learning and achievement**

Children are happy in the nursery and engage enthusiastically in a very good range of activities both in the nursery and in the outdoor area. Children enjoy a wide range of experiences, for example story telling activities in the outdoor area and opportunities to experiment with making their own dough in the play room. They are achieving

very well and making very good progress in their learning. Most children enjoy using books throughout the nursery. Almost all experiment with drawing and writing and create stories and pictures for their own books. Most are confident in sorting and matching by colour and size and know the names of simple shapes. Almost all children can count to ten and a few explore higher numbers during play activities. Children enjoy exploring in the outdoor area hunting for mini-beasts in the sensory garden and experimenting with mirrors in the reflection area. They are confident in using various materials, including junk, to explore different techniques in art and craft. All children participate in physical activities and are skilled in using the large climbing frame in the outdoor area. Children use video cameras and interactive whiteboards independently as part of their play and learning experiences, and take video cameras home to record and share special events and achievements outwith the nursery.

## **Curriculum and meeting learning needs**

The curriculum offers a broad range of learning activities which takes very good account of the ages and interests of children. Staff involve children in planning their own learning. They reflect regularly on the programmes they provide and make changes to improve the experiences for children. For example, they have recently improved opportunities for children to select resources and mix their own paint at the craft area. The learning environment outdoors has been enhanced to provide a rich range of activities for children to play with and explore. Staff use outings to the library and shops, as well as visits to other schools in the local community, to enhance the learning opportunities for children.

Staff know children well and respond sensitively to support and help them when they need encouragement. They observe children's learning during play and maintain profiles of children's achievements. The activities provided are at the right level to help children make progress in their learning. A few children require additional support and more challenge, and the nursery has worked with parents and other professionals to implement agreed individual plans where

appropriate. Children who attend all day have access to a small room which provides sensory light experiences and opportunities for rest and quiet.

## **5. How well do staff work with others to support children's learning?**

Staff work very well with the education authority to share ideas and improve children's learning. Parents are actively involved in the life and work of the nursery and share their expertise to enhance children's experiences, for example by planting specific flowers in the sensory garden to attract butterflies. Parents participate in committees to develop aspects of health promotion and the Eco Schools Scotland programme. The nursery has an established programme to help children to settle when they start nursery and provides very good support to help children as they move on to school. Nursery staff arrange visits, prepare transition records and meet school staff to help them get to know individual children.

## **6. Are staff and children actively involved in improving their centre community?**

All staff are committed to the nursery, its children and their families. They work very well as a team. They value parents' contributions and consult with them to help identify further improvements. Parents' ideas have been used to make positive changes such as increasing the number of trips and outings. Staff are exploring different ways to take account of children's views and have introduced a range of questionnaires covering key areas of the nursery. Staff evaluate their work and make improvements such as providing more opportunities for children's independence at snack. They have an improvement plan in place and have made very good progress in taking forward their priorities, including developing the outdoor area.

The management evaluate aspects of the nursery and discuss this with staff but recognise the need for more staff involvement in a planned approach to monitoring and evaluating children's learning.

## **7. Does the centre have high expectations of all children?**

Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour and learning, and recognise and celebrate their achievements. They actively promote approaches to health through offering healthy foods, tooth brushing and regular use of the outdoor area. They support children very well in learning about personal hygiene and hand washing. Staff are aware of their responsibilities in protecting children and have attended appropriate training. The nursery has appropriate policies in place for responding to complaints and comments.

## **8. Does the centre have a clear sense of direction?**

The owner and manager work well together and have a clear vision for the nursery. Leadership is effective across the nursery, with staff responding well to opportunities to lead on specific priorities in the improvement plan. Children show leadership in committees and responsibility in helping at lunch and snack. Staff have identified key areas for further development in their improvement plan, including aspects of *Curriculum for Excellence*. The management and staff are committed to ongoing improvement of the service and are well placed to continue to improve further.

## 9. What happens next?

As a result of the very good quality of education provided by the centre, we will make no further visits following this inspection. The education authority will inform parents about the centre's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its pre-school centres.

We have agreed the following area for improvement with the centre and education authority.

- Continue to involve all staff in a planned approach to monitoring and evaluating children's learning.

Quality indicators help centres, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of a centre. You can find these quality indicators in the HMIE publication *The Child at the Centre*. Following the inspection of each centre, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish centres are doing.

Here are the evaluations for Little Treasures Day Care Nursery.

<b>Improvements in performance</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Children's experiences</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Meeting learning needs</b>	<b>excellent</b>

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the centre.

<b>The curriculum</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Improvement through self-evaluation</b>	<b>good</b>

**Managing Inspector:** Aileen Valenti  
5 August 2009

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Our complaints procedure is available from our website [www.hmie.gov.uk](http://www.hmie.gov.uk) or alternatively you can write to our Complaints Manager, at the address above or by telephoning 01506 600259. You can also contact the Complaints Coordinator, Headquarters, Care Commission, Compass House, Riverside Drive, Dundee DD1 4NY, telephone 0845 603 0890.

If you are not satisfied with the action we have taken at the end of our complaints procedure, you can raise your complaint with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPSO is fully independent and has powers to investigate complaints about Government departments and agencies. You should write to SPSO, Freepost EH641, Edinburgh EH3 0BR. You can also telephone 0800 377 7330, fax 0800 377 7331 or e-mail: [ask@spsso.org.uk](mailto:ask@spsso.org.uk). More information about the Ombudsman's office can be obtained from the website at [www.spsso.org.uk](http://www.spsso.org.uk).

This report uses the following word scale to make clear judgements made by inspectors.

excellent	outstanding, sector leading
very good	major strengths
good	important strengths with some areas for improvement
satisfactory	strengths just outweigh weaknesses
weak	important weaknesses
unsatisfactory	major weaknesses

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