

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Tiny Tots Corner Playgroup,  
Killylea, Armagh

Report of an Inspection  
in October 2011

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Name of pre-school centre:</b> | Tiny Tots Corner Playgroup                      |
| <b>Address:</b>                   | Esker Park<br>KILLYLEA<br>Co Armagh<br>BT60 4LT |
| <b>Management Type:</b>           | Voluntary                                       |

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Date of inspection:</b>          | 6 October 2011   |
| <b>Date of previous inspection:</b> | 27 February 2003 |

### 1. Details of Children

| <b>Total number of children:</b>  | <b>am session</b> | <b>pm session</b> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| • attending the pre-school centre   | 11                | -                 |
| • in their immediate pre-school year  | 9                 | -                 |
| • funded by Department of Education (DE)  | 9                 | -                 |
| • qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2  | 1                 | -                 |
| • 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  | 1                 | -                 |
| • who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school                      | 3                 | -                 |
| <b>Attendance:</b>  |                   |                   |
| • attendance** of funded children for the previous school year  | 87%               | -                 |

\* 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        | 2         | 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                     | N/A                           | 195                                  |

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Number issued to parents:   | 11    |
| Percentage returned:        | 45.5% |
| Number of written comments: | 3     |

## **TINY TOTS CORNER PLAYGROUP, KILLYLEA, CO ARMAGH, BT60 4LT (5AB-0465)**

1. Tiny Tots Corner Playgroup is located in Killylea, and provides daily sessions for the children in the surrounding local area. Since the last inspection there has been a change in leadership and a new deputy leader has recently been appointed. The purpose-built accommodation is new and opened in September, 2011.

2. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

### **CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

3. The staff has worked hard, in a short space of time, to create a very stimulating environment for the children; good use is made of all the areas for play. The children are welcomed into the playgroup and are at ease with the staff who are supporting them well during their settling-in period. There is a happy, purposeful atmosphere and the children are at an early stage in forming friendships. The children demonstrate good levels of independence in attending to their own needs, are keen to ask questions and to seek the support of the staff to help them.

4. Language development is actively promoted and the children are developing good talking and very good listening skills. The quality of the children's musical development is very good; they enjoy singing along in the nursery rhyme session. The staff display and celebrate the children's art work throughout the playgroup; these displays along with themed books and interest areas help to arouse the children's curiosity and to stimulate interest and imagination. The children show a very good interest in mark-making and can play imaginatively, often for concentrated periods of time.

### **THE PROVISION FOR LEARNING**

5. The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is consistently of a very good standard; the staff uses every opportunity to promote the children's learning across all six areas of the curriculum. During the inspection, the staff engaged purposefully with the children, listened to them and built effectively on their ideas and interests. In the best practice observed they encouraged the children to recall, predict and problem-solve and used mathematical language in a very natural and incidental way. The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable ensures the sessions flow smoothly and that all of the time is used well for learning.

6. The staff has recently begun to plan and take account of a variety of themes and the children's interests to provide a varied programme. The planning for play in the outdoors is underdeveloped. The children's learning and progress is carefully recorded and assessed and the information is used to inform future planning.

7. The staff seeks to provide individualised support for the children and provides very good attention to their needs. The staff are at an early stage of development in establishing links with a range of support agencies. The links with the local primary school are productive and have the potential for further development to enhance the provision for the children's needs.

8. A variety of effective methods, such as regular newsletters and a parent's notice board, have been designed to provide the parents with valuable information about the work of the playgroup and to highlight ways that they can become actively involved in the education of their child.

9. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the playgroup is very good. There is a welcoming and caring atmosphere based on very good working relationships at all levels.

10. The playgroup has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

11. The playgroup gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The children have, for example, access to healthy daily snacks and regular opportunities to engage in a range of physical activities. It is appropriate that the staff are developing further the opportunities for energetic activity on a daily basis.

## **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

12. The leader of the playgroup is new and has made a very good start to leading and managing the playgroup very effectively. She is well-supported by the new deputy leader and there is a strong sense of team spirit and enthusiasm for the development of the provision. All of the staff contributes to the very good standards achieved by the children. The management committee are highly supportive of the staff in their work and to the future development of the playgroup.

13. The process of self-evaluation is at an early stage; however the staff are very reflective in their work and have appropriately identified this as an area for further development. A three-year development plan ensures that additional priorities and targets for future development are identified. The staff report that they have very good working relationships with their early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation who has provided very good support and identified appropriate areas for development.

### **14. The key strengths of the playgroup include:**

- the caring, supportive ethos based on very good working relationships at all levels;
- the high quality of the interaction between the staff and the children;
- the very good learning opportunities provided in all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- the comprehensive methods of planning and assessment;
- the very good support provided by the management group and the EYS in ensuring that the new building and the programme for the children is effectively developing; and
- the very effective leadership and management and the staff's commitment to the welfare of the children and the ongoing development of the playgroup.

15. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

**QUESTIONNAIRES**

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the staff and the management committee to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. The responses made were generally positive.

**© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2011**

**This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.**

**Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)**

