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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

**Aghadowey Pre-School Playgroup
Coleraine**

Inspected: January 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Aghadowey Pre-School Playgroup
Address:	New Mobile 32 Mullaghinch Road Aghadowey COLERAINE Co Londonderry BT51 4AP
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	10 January 2007
Date of previous inspection:	25 May 2000

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	17	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
• funded by Department of Education	11	-
• 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	1	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	87.2%	-

* 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	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
2¾ hours	-	187

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	17
Percentage returned:	29.4%
Number of written comments:	2

**AGHADOWEY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY
BT51 4AP (3BB-0128)**

1. The centre is accommodated in a mobile building in the grounds of Cullycapple Primary School. Since the last inspection, a new leader has been appointed and the group has moved premises.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision.

3. 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. The updated policies need to be shared with all of the parents.

4. The centre gives some consideration to promoting a healthy lifestyle among the children. There are regular 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.

- The centre has a warm, relaxed atmosphere based on very good relationships between the staff and the children. The children are settled and well behaved.
- The organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance between the children's freely chosen play and appropriate group activities. The daily routines are managed smoothly and are used effectively to promote a range of learning.
- The work of the staff is a key strength of the provision. The staff are all caring and supportive; they demonstrate a high level of skill in building effectively on the children's own ideas and extending their language, thinking and learning.
- There are good or very good opportunities to learn in most areas of the pre-school curriculum in particular, the promotion of the children's confidence and independence, language development and early mathematical ideas.
- The staff make useful assessments of the children's progress and use this information effectively to identify and support the children's individual needs.
- The staff give good support to children with special educational needs and they demonstrate a high level of respect and care.
- The leader is a good role-model in her own work with the children. She fosters a strong sense of team-work among the hard-working staff.
- The centre demonstrates improvements in many areas since the last inspection.

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

- The staff need to develop the planning and provision for the promotion of the children's imaginative play.
- Develop further the planning and provision for outdoor and energetic play activities.

7. The staff are in the early stages of developing self-evaluation. Some progress has been made in identifying a few appropriate areas for improvement and in evaluating the weekly programme. The centre's early years specialist needs to work closely with the centre to develop a more systematic approach to self-evaluation to bring about continuous improvement. The development plan should be amended to include the areas identified through inspection.

8. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address.

The pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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