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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

Ballyholme Presbyterian Church Playgroup Bangor

Inspected: May 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Ballyholme Presbyterian Church Playgroup
Address:	Ashley Drive BANGOR Co Down BT20 5RD
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	3 May 2007
Date of previous inspection:	25 January 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	24	-
• funded by Department of Education	24	-
• 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	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	92%	-

* 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	0

Number of: ***	
Students	2
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	-	186

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	42.3%
Number of written comments:	3

**BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PLAYGROUP, BANGOR, CO DOWN,
BT20 5RD (4AB-0275)**

1. The centre is situated in the Church Hall and is shared with other Church organisations. The children come from the surrounding area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. Those who responded indicated a high level of response with the overall provision. Any issues raised have been discussed with the leaders.

3. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. Some additions are needed, including the need for clearer procedures for toileting and the reporting of incidents and concerns to ensure they are sufficiently detailed. The inspection evidence indicates that some further action is needed to ensure that all staff and representatives from the management committee receive appropriate training.

4. The pre-school centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. Regular opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a range of appropriate energetic physical activities.

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

- The efforts made by the staff to create a stimulating and interesting environment. The hall is arranged thoughtfully on a daily basis with distinct areas for aspects of play.
- The friendly relationships established between the parents and the staff at the beginning and the end of the session.
- The instances when the children displayed sustained interest and purposeful play.
- The staff's hard work and efforts in developing appropriate planning and assessment methods.
- The occasions of skilful interaction between the staff and the children with small groups and individuals, promoting the children's language and learning.
- The hard-working and dedicated staff and the progress made in identifying appropriate areas for further development.

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

- The staff and representatives from the management committee need to receive appropriate training in child protection matters and have a shared understanding of the procedures to be followed when a child protection issue is raised.

- Aspects of the organisation of the day should be reviewed in order to ensure that all the time is used effectively for learning.
- The staff need to develop and implement more effective strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour.
- The centre's policy and procedures for supporting those children identified as having special educational needs should be developed further.
- The centre requires more effective and focused support from its early years specialist.

7. The centre is at an early stage in developing its approaches to self-evaluation. The staff have identified the organisation of the daily session as an area for development. They have reflected constructively on their practice, and have collaborated as a team to discuss new approaches. In order to bring about the required improvements the staff now need to implement the necessary changes.

8. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few important areas for improvement which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

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

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