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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Ballymoney and District Community Playgroup  
Co Antrim**

**Inspected: February 2008**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Ballymoney and District Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	Trinity Church Hall BALLYMONEY Co Antrim BT53 6JJ
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	7 February 2008
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	24 January 2002

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	27	24
• in their immediate pre-school year	27	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	27	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	4	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	2	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• 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	88%	-

\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
Staff, including leader	4	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	4	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	2

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	0
Trainees	0

\*\* Total placements since September of current year

## 3. Details of Sessions

<b>Duration of morning session</b>	<b>Duration of afternoon session</b>	<b>Number of days open in previous year</b>
2½ hours	2½ hours	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	27
Percentage returned:	59.3%
Number of written comments:	3

## **BALLYMONEY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO ANTRIM, BT53 6JJ (3AB-0355)**

1. The centre is situated in the purpose-built children's accommodation in Trinity Church Hall, Ballymoney. Most of the children who attend the centre come from Ballymoney and the surrounding area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection. Most of the responses indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the provision.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has important strengths. The centre has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education Circulars and has identified appropriately a few areas for improvement which are being developed by the staff. The areas for improvement identified include the need to update the training for the Chairperson of the management committee and to add further child protection procedural detail to the parents' information booklet.

4. The centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The centre has a welcoming atmosphere. The staff are caring and supportive; they implement positive behaviour management strategies, where appropriate, and the children's behaviour is very good.
- The daily timetable is well-organised and provides suitable periods of uninterrupted play during which the children have adequate time to make choices and to explore freely the full range of activities.
- The good quality of the staff's interaction supports purposeful play.
- The staff provide good opportunities for the development of the children's learning in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The particular strengths of the programme are the promotion of the children's language skills, exemplified through the skilful and expressive story-telling; the provision of appropriate physical play sessions and the personal, social and emotional development.
- The systems of planning and assessment are appropriate and guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children.
- The children who require additional learning support are integrated fully into the play sessions. The staff are aware of their particular needs and use a good range of strategies when working with the children; these are reflected appropriately in the education plans.

6. The working relationships at all levels are excellent. The centre is managed effectively by the leader who is ably supported by the staff team. They have identified appropriate areas for self-evaluation in the centre's development plan; they have been well-supported by the early years specialist during this process. The staff have reflected collaboratively on their practice and they have introduced and monitored new approaches. There is good evidence that their efforts have improved the children's play experiences.

7. The quality of education provided in this centre is very good. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents and local community can have confidence in the centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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