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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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**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

Banbridge Playgroup Co Down

Inspected: September 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Banbridge Playgroup
Address:	Old Hospital Road BANBRIDGE Co Down BT32 3GN
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	29 September 2008
Date of previous inspection:	15 May 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	45	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	45	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	45	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	5	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	1	-
• 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	95.6%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	8	-
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	7	-
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	-

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	192

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	45
Percentage returned:	44.4%
Number of written comments:	7

BANBRIDGE PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT32 3GN (5AB 0467)

1. The pre-school centre is situated near to the centre of Banbridge town. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes and the leader is recently appointed. There are currently 45 children attending the centre.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A significant minority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and seven made additional written comments. The responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and the vast majority of them appreciate:

- the helpful, caring and supportive staff; and
- the warm friendly atmosphere in the centre.

The responses from the management group and the staff were also very positive and supportive of the work of the centre, and the positive team-working arrangements. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is very good. The staff work well as a team and demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children. The relationships at all levels are very good and there are close links with the parents, local schools and appropriate support agencies.

4. The centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education but the following minor areas need to be addressed:

- to update the training in child protection to include all of the staff; and
- to ensure all procedures are clearly documented, and understood by the parents and the staff.

5. The centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The friendly, caring ethos promotes the children's confidence, self-esteem and good behaviour. The staff make very good use of the space available to create an attractive and interesting learning environment for the children.
- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner and the quality of their interactions are consistently of a high standard.

- There are good learning opportunities in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's language and creative skills are particular strengths of the programme.
- The staff have developed appropriate methods of planning and assessment; good efforts are made by them to address the learning difficulties experienced by some of the children.
- The centre is well managed. The leader is a good role-model and is effective in promoting a strong team-spirit among the hard-working staff.

7. The staff implement useful methods of self-evaluation. To date good progress has been made in reviewing aspects of the organisation of the play sessions. The early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The staff report the support provided is helpful and well focused.

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

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