



*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

Benburb Community Playgroup Dungannon

Inspected: October 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Benburb Community Playgroup
Address:	3 Drumgose Road Benburb DUNGANNON Co Tyrone BT71 7JT
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	13 October 2008
Date of previous inspection:	24 April 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	23	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	21	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	21	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• 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	3	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	1	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	90%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	2

Number of: **	
Students	0
Trainees	1

** 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	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned:	56%
Number of written comments:	6

**BENBURB COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT71 7JT
(5AB-0406)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in Benburb village. Since the last inspection there have been significant staffing changes. The leader has been in post for seven months. There are currently 23 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 majority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and six made additional written comments. The responses from almost all of the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and the vast majority of them appreciate:

- the helpful, caring and considerate staff, and
- the warm, inviting 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 of the recently appointed leader. 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 satisfactory. 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.

4. The centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department but the following minor area needs to be addressed:

- to update the training in child protection to include a member of the management group and all of the staff.

5. The centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The centre is involved in the 'Boost Better Breaks' scheme and there are regular opportunities for energetic outdoor play which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- there is a friendly, welcoming ethos within the centre; there are good working relationships at all levels and the learning environment is bright and well organised with colourful displays which celebrate the children's work;
- the staff are caring and supportive in their engagement with the children and in helping them to explore the play activities provided;

- there are satisfactory learning opportunities in most aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's independence is a particular strength of the programme;
- the staff have developed helpful written planning to guide their work with the children and have designed appropriate methods for assessing the children's progress and development;
- the staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and to the development of the centre; there are effective team-working procedures in all aspects of the centre's work; and
- the recently appointed leader has worked effectively to enhance the learning environment and routines within the centre and to identify and plan for the changes required to develop further the learning opportunities for all of the children.

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

- The staff need to develop behaviour management procedures and strategies in order to guide them in their day-to-day work with the children; and
- review the organisation of the latter part of the day to ensure that all of the time available is used effectively to promote learning.

8. The staff are at an early stage in the process of self-evaluation. To date good progress has been made in consulting with parents and in reviewing the organisation and layout of the playroom. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has a few strengths in developing the children's work. The staff require more focused, regular support from the EYS in order to bring about the necessary improvement particularly in relation to behaviour management, reviewing aspects of the programme and in accessing essential training for child protection.

9. In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the centre's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

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