



*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**

#### **Brambly Hedge Community Playgroup Strabane**

**Inspected: April 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Brambly Hedge Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	12 Cloughboy Road STRABANE Co Tyrone BT82 0DN
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	23 April 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	14 June 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
• funded by Department of Education	10	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	10	-
• 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	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	90%	-

\* Special Educational Needs

\*\* 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	-	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	-	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	-	0

<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	-	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	11
Percentage returned:	45%
Number of written comments:	3

**BRAMBLY HEDGE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, STRABANE, CO TYRONE,  
BT82 0DN (2AB-0342)**

1. The centre is situated in a rural community between Londonderry and Strabane. Since the last inspection the centre has moved to mobile accommodation within the grounds of Bready Primary School. The accommodation includes a small, secure outdoor play 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 expressed high levels of satisfaction with the work of the centre. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and any issues raised have been shared with the staff.

3. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. Some minor additions are needed to ensure they are comprehensive. The staff should ensure that their procedures are shared with parents. The inspection evidence indicates that the policies and procedures are implemented consistently by the staff.

4. The pre-school gives consideration to promoting healthy eating habits 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.**

- There is a warm, caring atmosphere in the centre and relationships at all levels are good. The children respond well to the staff and their behaviour is generally good.
- The session is organised effectively to provide a lengthy period of uninterrupted play and the daily routines provide useful opportunities to develop the children's independence and self-esteem.
- The staff make good use of the available space indoors and outside to provide a range of appropriate play activities.
- There are satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. Areas of particular strength are the development of early mathematical language and the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development.
- The staff interact effectively with the children to promote co-operative play, to encourage concentration and perseverance and to help generate a sense of enjoyment.
- The written planning outlines progression through appropriate themes and topics and helps guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children. The staff are beginning to make more confident observations of the children's progress.

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

- The assessment procedures should be developed further and the information gathered should be used more explicitly to inform the planning, particularly for those children who require additional support.
- The staff should begin to strengthen curricular links with the primary schools to which the children transfer, and ensure that the parents receive more detailed information about the centre's curriculum and the children's learning.

7. The centre is managed effectively and there is a strong sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff. They meet regularly to plan and evaluate the programme. The centre's early years specialist provides regular and useful advice and guidance and has identified appropriate areas for development. The staff should now begin to take a more structured approach to self-evaluation. They should work with their early years specialist and the management group to draft a development plan for the centre which will highlight their priorities for action, and begin to gather evidence of improvement in provision and practice.

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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