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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

**Inspection of
Brookvale Community Playgroup**

(DE Number: 3AB-0248)

A Report by the Education and Training Inspectorate

November 2006

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Brookvale Community Playgroup
Address:	Millburn Community Centre 5 Linden Avenue COLERAINE Co Londonderry BT52 2AN
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	29 November 2006
Date of previous inspection:	7 November 2000

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	18	-
• funded by Department of Education	18	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	2	-
• 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	4	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	95%	-

* 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	3	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: ***	
Students	1
Trainees	2

*** 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
2¾ hours	-	179

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	20
Percentage returned:	25%
Number of written comments:	1

**BROOKVALE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUPO, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY,
BT52 2AN (3AB-0248)**

1. The playgroup is situated in Millburn Community Centre and is shared with a number of other organisations. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes.

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

3. The centre has in place appropriate procedures for pastoral care and child protection. The parents are given information about the centre's policies and procedures. The centre needs to ensure that members from the management committee receive appropriate training.

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

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

- The positive ethos helps to create a settled and caring atmosphere. The children are happy and well-settled. They are engaged in their learning experiences. Relationships at all levels are excellent.
- The staff work hard to make imaginative use of all the equipment and all the available space. The hall is arranged thoughtfully on a daily basis with distinct areas for aspects of play and is enhanced with interest areas and many displays of the children's work.
- The staff spend sustained periods with groups and individuals, promoting the children's language and thinking and participating effectively in the play.
- There are good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. The topic of 'Space' extended effectively the children's interest in, and knowledge of, the world around them and resulted in many examples of the children's developing creativity, technology and stimulating, imaginative role-play.
- There are good links with the local primary school and other professionals.
- The communication with the parents is effective. An open day is held for parents and children; a detailed induction booklet and regular newsletters have been designed to encourage the parents to play a full role in the education of their children. In addition, information on the curriculum and their children's progress is shared regularly using a variety of means.
- The centre has four children who have English as an additional language. The staff provide sensitive and effective support for these children.

- The leader demonstrates a strong commitment to the children, to raising the quality of the work within the centre and to developing links with the wider community. She generates a strong sense of team-work among the hard-working staff who all have a caring and enthusiastic approach to their work with the children.

6. The staff's use of 'Together Towards Improvement' has provided a good starting point for self-evaluation. The staff have identified an appropriate area for development, reflected constructively on their practice, and collaborated as a team to introduce and monitor new approaches. There is good evidence that their efforts have improved the children's experiences. The staff intend to extend this approach to improve aspects of the organisation of the day.

7. The pre-school centre has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. The toilets are situated outside the playroom. This results in additional demands on the staff in supervising and attending to the needs of the children.
2. On the day of the inspection, the hall was very cold.

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