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**Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

**Bunnahone Bunnies Cross-Community Playgroup
Derrygonnelly, Enniskillen**

Inspected: May 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Bunnahone Bunnies Cross-Community Playgroup
Address:	Tir Navar Creamery Road Derrygonnelly ENNISKILLEN Co Fermanagh BT93 6HW
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	15 May 2008
Date of previous inspection:	23 October 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	10	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	9	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• 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	2	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	96%	-

* 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	1	0

Number of: **	
Students	1
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
3¼ hours	N/A	187

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	20
Percentage returned:	55%
Number of written comments:	6

**BUNNAHONE BUNNIES CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP,
DERRYGONNELLY, ENNISKILLEN, CO FERMANAGH, BT93 6HW (2AB-0445)**

1. The centre is situated in an idyllic rural setting located within its own unit and outdoor grounds in the Tir Navar Complex in the town of Derrygonnelly. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes. The leader and the staff are recently appointed.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The parental responses were almost all very positive about the quality of the pre-school provision and praised the work of the staff in helping the children to settle well. The parents commented on the valuable service the playgroup provides in the local community. Some concerns were raised by the parents about the lack of adequate funding for the provision, leading to demands being made on them to fund-raise. They also commented on the lack of staffing to support children experiencing difficulties. The responses from the parents, staff and the management committee were taken into account as part of the inspection and are addressed in the body of the report.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has some strengths. The pre-school centre has a few appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. A small number of additions are needed to ensure they are sufficiently detailed, including training for new staff and the designated person on the management committee. The inspection evidence indicates that a deputy designated person for child protection has yet to be identified and that the staff are not yet sufficiently aware of what to do in the event of a concern being raised. The District Inspector will return to the centre within a six-week period to ensure that these important issues are addressed appropriately.

4. The pre-school programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, with a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily and be physically active.

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

- There is a supportive and caring atmosphere within the pre-school centre. The staff are attentive to the needs of the children and encourage them to be well-behaved.
- The children are well-settled and participate actively in a good range of play activities. There are a few instances of concentrated play.
- The children are co-operative and independent; they interact well with one another and the staff often share in conversations.
- The lengthy periods of play and activities organised by the staff provide a wide range of appropriate learning opportunities, including enjoyment in the outdoor area.
- The child-centred approaches to learning are being effectively developed by an enthusiastic, reflective leader and a hard-working staff.

- There is a close match between the identification of the centre's specific needs and the advice, guidance and support provided by the early years specialist (EYS) for the development of the centre. The management group recognises, and is supportive of, the need for improvement.

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

- The staff need to become more skilful in promoting learning through the play activities and to build more effectively on the children's ideas to extend their language and thinking.
- There is a need to improve the overall quality of the provision for those children with special educational needs.
- The assessment of the children's progress needs to be more systematic and linked to the planning in order to record progress and promote challenge and progression in the children's learning throughout the year.

7. The staff are a newly formed team and are beginning to develop team-working strategies. They have recently started to develop action plans to improve the provision. The EYS provides good advice, guidance and support to enable the pre-school centre, with the help of the management group, to continue to develop the provision. There is a need to implement a process to plan for the priorities identified during the inspection and to develop a culture of self-evaluation to support improvement.

8. The pre-school centre has a few strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified substantial areas for improvement, which need to be addressed promptly if the pre-school centre is to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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