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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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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

**Cloughmills Playgroup
Co Antrim**

Inspected: March 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Cloughmills Playgroup
Address:	Orange Hall 6 Main Street CLOUGHMILLS Co Antrim BT44 9LG
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	5 March 2007
Date of previous inspection:	11 June 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	28	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	18	-
• funded by Department of Education	17	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• with a statement of SEN*	1	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	4	-
• 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	87%	-

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

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	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	42.3%
Number of written comments:	5

CLOUGHMILLS PLAYGROUP, CO ANTRIM, BT44 9LG (3BB-0360)

1. The centre occupies two rooms in the Orange Hall in the centre of the village of Cloughmills. This is a temporary situation, and the committee of the centre is currently planning for permanent accommodation. Since the last inspection, two new assistants have been appointed, one of those in recent months.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. Nearly all of those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision.

3. The centre has a suitable written policy on child protection which is in line with the Department of Education guidance. The staff are aware of and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children. The parents are given information about the centre's policy and procedures.

4. The centre implements practices to promote healthy eating habits among the children. There are some 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 very positive ethos in the centre, characterised by warm, caring relationships between the adults and the children. The children are friendly and appear happy; their behaviour is very good.
- During the inspection, there were many instances of effective staff interaction when the staff supported the children's ideas and extended their language and learning.
- There is a good range of appropriate activities to promote learning in almost all areas of the curriculum; during the inspection, there were many examples of concentrated and co-operative play.
- Particular strengths within the curriculum are the programme for the children's personal, social and emotional development and the programme for language development.
- The staff have made a good start to developing the written planning which outlines a varied programme for the children throughout the year.
- There is good communication with the parents and a range of appropriate methods is used to inform them about the work of the centre.
- There is a strong sense of team-work among the staff who all are committed to the welfare of the children.

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

- to develop further aspects of the assessment methods in order to identify clearly the progress and development made by each child;
- to revise the provision for physical play in order to ensure challenge and progression in the children's experiences; and
- to review aspects of the organisation of the latter part of the session.

7. The centre is at an early stage in developing its approaches to self-evaluation. The staff evaluate regularly aspects of the programme and have identified appropriate areas for further development.

8. The centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

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

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