



*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

Derrytrasna Playgroup Lurgan

Inspected: January 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Derrytrasna Playgroup
Address:	191 Derrytrasna Road Derrytrasna LURGAN Co Armagh BT66 6NR
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	29 January 2008
Date of previous inspection:	9 October 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	25	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
• funded by Department of Education	11	-
• 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	3	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• 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%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	1	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	1	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: **	
Students	0
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
3 hours	-	181

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	25
Percentage returned:	76%
Number of written comments:	7

DERRYTRASNA PLAYGROUP, LURGAN, CO ARMAGH, BT66 6NR (5BB-0416)

1. The centre is located in a classroom at the rear of St Mary's Primary School in Derrytrasna. While a few of the facilities are shared with the primary school, the centre has its own private outdoor play and garden area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection. In their response to the inspection questionnaire, the parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision. Some of the parents added positive written comments and these were shared with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has important strengths. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. Some minor additions are needed to ensure they are comprehensive. The inspection evidence indicates that the policies and procedures are implemented consistently by the staff.

4. The centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The friendly, caring ethos promotes the children's confidence and self-esteem. The well organised environment helps to foster a settled climate for learning where the children's play is both purposeful and productive. Relationships at all levels are very good.
- The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is consistently of a high standard.
- There are satisfactory and at times good opportunities for learning in most aspects of the pre-school curriculum; the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's language are particular strengths.
- The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The snack routine is used effectively to promote the children's independence and learning.
- The staff work well as a team and demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and the development of the centre.

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

- The staff need to develop aspects of the planning further to ensure that the learning to be promoted is identified clearly and that all of the activities support fully the children's stage of development and learning; and
- to develop further the assessment methods to ensure the information gained is used more effectively to inform the planning.

7. The staff have made a useful start in developing and implementing methods of self-evaluation to bring about improvements in the provision.

8. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has important strengths. The staff, with the continued support from the centre's EYS, are well placed to continue the developmental work required.

9. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational 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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