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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

**Dervock Playgroup
Ballymoney**

Inspected: November 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name of pre-school centre: | Dervock Playgroup |
| Address: | The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School 182 Knock Road Dervock BALLYMONEY Co Antrim BT53 8BB |
| Management Type: | Voluntary |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Date of inspection: | 22 November 2007 |
| Date of previous inspection: | 11 March 2002 |

1. Details of Children

| Total number of children: | am session | pm session |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| • attending the pre-school centre | 16 | - |
| • in their immediate pre-school year | 12 | - |
| • funded by Department of Education | 11 | - |
| • qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2 | 2 | - |
| • with a statement of special educational needs | 0 | - |
| • without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs | 0 | - |
| • 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 | 92% | - |

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

| Number of: | Full-time | Part-time |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Staff, including leader | 2 | 0 |
| Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications | 2 | 0 |
| New appointments within previous 12 months | 0 | 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 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2½ hours | - | 188 |

4. Parental Questionnaires

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Number issued to parents: | 16 |
| Percentage returned: | 81.3% |
| Number of written comments: | 7 |

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF DERVOCK PLAYGROUP, BALLYMONEY, CO ANTRIM, BT53 8BB (3BB-0361)

1. The centre is accommodated in a playroom within The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School, Dervock. Most of the children come from Dervock and the surrounding rural 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 and the few issues raised have been shared with the staff. Most of the parents who completed the questionnaire were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the centre is very good. The centre has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection that comply with the Department of Education Circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that these policies and procedures are implemented effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The staff create an attractive learning environment within the playroom, which is enhanced with displays of the children's art work. There is a positive ethos based on very good working relationships between the staff and the children.
- The children's behaviour is good. The staff implement effective strategies to encourage the children's co-operation and sense of responsibility to their environment.
- The staff are all sensitive and supportive in their engagement with the children. During the inspection, there were many good examples of skilful interaction by the staff which extended the children's language and thinking skills. The staff should continue to develop and build upon this good practice.
- The organisation of the centre's day allows for long periods of uninterrupted play.
- There are good opportunities to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children's learning experiences relating to the world around us and the development of the children's personal, social and emotional skills are particular strengths of the centre's provision.
- The written planning has developed well during the last year and is helpful in guiding the staff in their work with 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 the approach to the observation and recording of the children's progress across all the areas of the pre-school curriculum, and to link the information more effectively to their short-term planning.

7. There is a strong sense of team-work among the dedicated staff. They have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in reviewing the programme for outdoor physical play.

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 followed-up by monitoring visits, conducted by the District Inspector.

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