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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



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

Donagh Wee Folk Playgroup
Lisnaskea, Enniskillen

Inspected: November 2006

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Donagh "Wee Folk" Playgroup
Address:	St Joseph's Youth Centre Donagh Lisnaskea ENNISKILLEN BT92 5BG
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	28 November 2006
Date of previous inspection:	21 March 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	18	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	12	-
• funded by Department of Education	12	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	0	-
• 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	97.5%	-

* 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	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	1
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: ***	
Students	2
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	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	18
Percentage returned:	72%
Number of written comments:	3

**DONAGH “WEE FOLK” PLAYGROUP, LISNASKEA, ENNISKILLEN
CO FERMANAGH, BT92 5BG (2AB-0339)**

1. The centre is situated in dedicated accommodation within St Joseph’s Youth Centre in Donagh. Since the last inspection, the centre has been completely refurbished and has very recently acquired access to a small outdoor play area. The current leader was appointed in October 2005.

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. Those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with the work of the centre.

3. The nursery 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 pre-school centre demonstrates a commitment to promoting healthy eating among the children. Although the outdoor play space is limited, 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 centre has a very positive ethos with a clear sense of purpose, and relationships at all levels are excellent. The children show high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They respond well to the adults’ expectations and their behaviour is very good.
- The staff have worked hard to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment. The children’s work is thoughtfully displayed and good use is made of photographs and posters to stimulate the children’s interest.
- The daily timetable is carefully organised to provide a long period of uninterrupted free play and some appropriate adult-led activities. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to provide choice and promote the children’s independence.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff work hard to promote the children’s personal, social and emotional development and are skilful in developing the children’s language skills across all areas of the curriculum.
- The staff are caring and supportive, and their interactions with the children are very effective in promoting sustained, concentrated and purposeful play.

- An appropriate system of short-term planning has been developed which effectively guides the staff in their day-to-day work with the children. The staff have identified the need for more focused medium-term planning to highlight the learning potential within the chosen themes and topics. The staff monitor and record the children's progress and use this information to inform the planning.
- The staff have developed effective links with the parents and a variety of appropriate methods is used to inform the parents of their children's progress and to involve them in the life of the centre.

6. The leader manages the centre effectively and there is a strong sense of team-work among the staff. They demonstrate a reflective approach to their work and regularly evaluate the provision. The staff receive valuable support from the centre's early years specialist, and the centre's development plan appropriately identifies outdoor play as an area for review and improvement. The staff should now take a more structured approach to self-evaluation and begin to gather evidence of improvement in this area.

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.

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