



*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

**Drumahoe Community Playgroup
Londonderry**

Inspected: May 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Drumahoe Community Playgroup
Address:	Glendermott Presbyterian Church 43 Church Road LONDONDERRY BT47 3QQ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	26 May 2009
Date of previous inspection:	28 May 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	17	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	6	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	6	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	3	-
• 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	3	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	88%	-

* 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	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	0

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
2¾ hours	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	17
Percentage returned:	59%
Number of written comments:	5

**DRUMAHOE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO LONDONDERRY, BT47 3QQ
(2BB-0448)**

1. Drumahoe Community Playgroup is situated in temporary premises in a church hall on the outskirts of the village of Drumahoe, three miles from the city of Londonderry. There are currently 17 children attending the playgroup; six are in their pre-school year. A new leader took up post during the week of the inspection. The playgroup plans to move to permanent premises at the beginning of the new school year.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Approximately 59% of the parents responded to the questionnaire and five parents made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicate that the parents regard the playgroup highly and they appreciate:

- the caring, safe environment;
- the range of activities available; and
- the opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the playgroup.

A small number of parents would like further information on their child's progress throughout the year. The responses from the management group and the staff were also positive and supportive of the work of the playgroup. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the playgroup is good. The staff are supportive and helpful and the children enjoy their time at the playgroup.

4. The playgroup has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

5. The playgroup gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the children are offered a daily healthy snack and have regular use of a large hall for physical play. The children currently have no access to outdoor play facilities.

6. The main strengths within the playgroup's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.

- The playgroup provides a safe and caring learning environment for the children. The staff have worked hard to create stimulating and inviting areas for play; the children's individual art work is appropriately annotated and attractively displayed around the playroom.
- The staff interact with the children to provide good learning opportunities. They become involved in imaginative role-play and extend the children's talking and listening skills through the use of appropriate open-ended questions.

- The children demonstrate good levels of purposeful and concentrated play. They are interested in the range of activities provided and have confidence to ask the staff for help and support.
- The programme offers satisfactory to good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths include the promotion of the use of authentic resources in role-play and the opportunity for the children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively through a range of materials.
- The consistent and well-focused support from the early years specialist (EYS) has enabled the staff to adapt effectively to the changing needs of the children.
- The staff are committed to the children's welfare; they are hard-working and have a very caring and enthusiastic approach to their work with the children.

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

- The staff need to develop further their methods of assessing the children's progress to ensure that there is adequate evidence of progression and development throughout the year and share this information more formally with the parents.

8. The staff have made a good start to the process of self-evaluation. It will be important that this process is reviewed and developed further following the appointment of the new playgroup leader, the move to new permanent premises and the inspection findings.

9. The EYS has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this playgroup. The support provided is well focused, in particular the clustering arrangements and the professional development provided for the staff in relation to provision for children with special educational needs.

10. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the playgroup is good. The playgroup has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the playgroup has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the playgroup's progress on the areas for improvement.

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