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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Irvinestown Cross-Community Playgroup  
Co Fermanagh**

**Inspected: February 2008**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Irvinestown Cross-Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	Victoria School Scallen Road IRVINESTOWN Co Fermanagh BT94 1HS
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	27 February 2008
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	31 January 2002

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	24	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	24	-
• 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	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	95%	-

\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

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

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	1
Trainees	0

\*\* Total placements since September of current year

## 3. Details of Sessions

<b>Duration of morning session</b>	<b>Duration of afternoon session</b>	<b>Number of days open in previous year</b>
2½ hours	-	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	75%
Number of written comments:	6

**IRVINESTOWN CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO FERMANAGH,  
BT94 1HS (2AB-0079)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in the town of Irvinestown, approximately nine miles from the town of Enniskillen. Since the last inspection in 2002, all of the staff are newly appointed.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the pre-school centre through the inspection questionnaires. There was a very high level of praise and satisfaction for the work of the staff by the parents and support for the pre-school centre in the local area. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the pre-school centre is very good. The pre-school 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. Among the strengths are:

- the very caring and supportive atmosphere and the excellent relationships between the staff and the children;
- the contribution made by the staff to the children's personal, social and emotional development; and
- the effective ways of communicating with parents, the early years specialist (EYS) and the management group.

4. The pre-school 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 staff work hard to provide a bright and stimulating learning environment. They display the children's photographs, representational drawings and art work to celebrate their achievements. The quality of the relationships between the staff and the children is excellent.
- The staff has established very good communication and links with the parents. They provide information on the pre-school curriculum and report to them on the children's progress and development. Useful links have been established with the local primary schools.
- There are very good opportunities for the children to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum; the opportunities for the children to develop language, mathematical awareness and to explore are key strengths of the provision.

- The staff work productively as a team to develop a planned programme that effectively meets the specific needs of all the children. There is an effective link made between the planned programme and the assessment of the children's needs and interests. The children respond well to the activities provided and to the staff expectations for good behaviour.
- The close involvement of the staff in the children's play and their sensitive interaction is effectively supporting the children in developing good quality concentrated play.
- The quality of the leadership and management is very good. The leader and the deputy leader are skilful in their work with the children and have a clear vision for good quality pre-school education. The staff are all hard-working and supportive in meeting the needs of the children and are effectively supported by the EYS and the management group.

6. The staff effectively implement some useful methods of self-evaluation, particularly in relation to the management of the children's behaviour and outdoor learning. The EYS has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The support provided is well focused on staff training for managing children's behaviour and development planning for a two-year period.

7. The quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is very good. 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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