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*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**

#### **Jack and Jill Community Playgroup Omagh**

**Inspected: March 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Jack and Jill Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	4 Derbrough Road Plumbridge OMAGH Co Tyrone BT79 8EF
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	31 March 2009
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	7 November 2005

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	16	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	16	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• 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	75%	-

\* 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	0	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	0
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	2½ hours	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	16
Percentage returned:	75%
Number of written comments:	3

**JACK AND JILL COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, PLUMBRIDGE, OMAGH,  
CO TYRONE, BT79 8EF (2AB-0291)**

1. Jack and Jill Community Playgroup is located in purpose-built accommodation in the village of Plumbridge, County Tyrone. The children attending the centre come from the surrounding rural area. The leader and assistant have remained in post since the beginning of the pre-school expansion programme in 1998. The centre has a secure, well-developed outdoor area.

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. Most of the parents responded to the questionnaire and three made additional written comments. The responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and those who responded appreciate the caring, supportive staff and value the pre-school setting within the community. Four management and three staff questionnaires were completed and the responses were also highly affirmative of all aspects of the work of the centre. The responses from all of the questionnaires have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and the management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is very good. The staff are caring and demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and give close consideration to maintaining positive relationships within the community to support the children. The personal, social and emotional development needs of the children are met very effectively by the staff.

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

5. The staff give very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and effective policies and programmes are in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- There is a warm and caring atmosphere in the centre which effectively promotes the children's self-esteem, confidence and excellent behaviour. The children are responsive to the high expectations of the staff and enjoy learning in a mutually respectful environment.
- The daily timetable, which includes indoor and outdoor activities is carefully organised to provide a very good balance of free-play and adult-led activities. The children are offered choices of activities and encouraged to make decisions about their own learning; they display high levels of independence and often engage in concentrated play.

- There are very good and, at times, outstanding opportunities for learning in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum, and this is reflected in the children's very good attainment and standards of talking and listening skills in language and mathematical concepts in shape and early number. The staff are very skilful in promoting the children's thinking skills and scientific concepts. The children often model language and learning as a result of positive interaction with the staff and are making good progress.
- The staff have established effective planning and assessment practices. They evaluate well the children's progress and use the information gained to inform future planning.
- The staff make effective use of a range of training programmes and the productive links with the local Sure Start programme is helping the staff to meet the language development needs of some of the children.
- The leader manages the centre to a high standard and is a very good role-model in her work with the children. She is supported effectively by the staff and there are high levels of team-work. The management group is supportive and there is a strong commitment to the needs of all the children and to the development of the centre.

7. The use of self-evaluation to identify, prioritise and implement improvement, particularly in planning for and assessment of learning, is having a positive impact in the areas of music and gardening. The early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this centre. The support provided is well focused, with a particular focus on the development planning for improvement.

8. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is very good. The pre-school centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY APPENDIX**

- The door frame casing on the floor is a trip hazard.
- The peaks of the fence are a potential hazard.
- The use of a cloth towel is a hygiene risk.

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