

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Kids Kabin Pre-School,
Castlewellan

Report of an Inspection
in December 2012

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In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school setting:	Kids Kabin Pre-School
Address:	21 Chapel Lane Drummaroad CASTLEWELLAN Co Down BT31 9PQ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	10 December 2012
Date of previous inspection:	April 2005

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school setting	24	-
in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	19	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	5	-
with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	1	-
with English as an additional language	0	-
who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	1	-
Attendance:		
attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	80%	-

* Special Educational Needs = fewer than five

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	1	3
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification	0	2
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	1	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	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
2½ hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	19
Percentage returned	84%
Number of written comments:	12

1. Introduction

The Kids Kabin Pre-School playgroup is situated in Chapel Lane, Drumaroad, Castlewellan. Most of the children come from the surrounding rural area. Since the last inspection, a new staff team has been established under the auspices of a new leader.

2. Inspection methods and evidence base

The inspection evaluations are based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from a range of documentation provided by the playgroup.

The views of the parents, staff, and management group were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Nineteen questionnaires were issued to the parents and sixteen were returned with twelve written comments. All of the staff and the members of the management group returned the questionnaires with written comments. All of the returns from the questionnaires indicated excellent levels of satisfaction with all aspects of the work of the playgroup. The parents highlighted their children's enjoyment of the learning opportunities provided for them and the caring approach shown to the children by the staff. The reporting inspector discussed the responses and the comments with the staff, the leader and a member of the management group who attended the oral report back.

3. Overall finding of the inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The playgroup has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements Quality of Provision Leadership and management	Outstanding Outstanding Outstanding
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KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

4. Children's Achievements

The quality of the children's achievements is outstanding.

- Almost all of the children are very well- settled; they sustain purposeful play across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They demonstrate high levels of co-operation with their peers and the members of staff. A small number of children are being supported skilfully and sensitively by the staff to engage more fully in play with their peers.
- The children are developing their conversational and early mark-making skills through effective play activities which replicate real-life situations. The children's understanding and knowledge of the world around them, in particular, their early scientific skills, are progressing well through activities and resources which stimulate their curiosity, creativity and problem-solving approaches.

5. Provision for Learning

The quality of the provision for learning is outstanding.

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in this playgroup is outstanding. The children benefit from the excellent care and sensitive support provided by the staff. The children's behaviour is excellent and they display very good social skills.
- There are outstanding learning opportunities in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is always very good and, at times, is outstanding. The staff exploit fully every opportunity to develop the children's language and learning. The children are encouraged to become independent and to make choices for themselves. The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable provides a very good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff.
- The planning and assessment methods are very effective. The staff record systematically their observations of the children's play; this information is analysed appropriately to plan future activities to meet the children's individual interests and needs.
- The parents are kept well informed through monthly newsletters and the relevant reports on their child's progress.
- The playgroup gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The children access a range of healthy snacks and drinks. They have daily opportunities to play outdoors, including experiencing a varied and progressive range of physical activities.

6. Leadership and Management

The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.

- The leader is highly motivated and provides outstanding leadership. All of the staff work as an effective team and contribute successfully to the high quality of the provision.
- The playgroup's development plan identifies appropriate areas for review and development and demonstrates the staff's reflective approach to evaluating their work. They are taking appropriate, incremental steps to address the further development of the outdoor play area to provide more energetic play opportunities. The management committee has a clear overview of, and, a proactive approach to, the strategic development of the playgroup. The staff receive a very good quality of professional advice from the early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation (EYO).
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the playgroup has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The playgroup has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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