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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Kilbride Playgroup  
Ballyclare**

**Inspected: May 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Kilbride Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	1 Moyra Road Burnside Doagh BALLYCLARE Co Antrim BT39 0SD
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	24 May 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	15 October 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	28	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
• funded by Department of Education	19	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	1	-
• 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	89%	-

\* Special Educational Needs

\*\* 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	2
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>
2 hours 45 minutes	-	187

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	19
Percentage returned:	47.4%
Number of written comments:	4

## **REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF KILBRIDE PLAYGROUP, DOAGH, BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM, BT39 0SD (3AB-0366)**

1. The centre is accommodated in Kilbride Orange Hall which is shared with a number of other organisations. The children come from the surrounding area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. Those who responded indicated a high level of response with the overall provision. Any issues raised have been discussed with the leader.

3. The centre has in place appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the staff implement these policies and procedures effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The pre-school centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. Good 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 positive ethos promotes a caring and supportive atmosphere based on good working relationships at all levels. The children are happy and well settled and engage purposefully in their learning experiences.
- The staff work very hard to make imaginative use of all the equipment and all the available space. The hall is thoughtfully arranged on a regular basis with distinct areas for aspects of play which is enhanced with interest areas and displays of the children's work.
- The daily timetable and necessary routines are organised to ensure smooth transitions and to make the most effective use of all the time available to promote learning.
- The staff spend sustained periods with groups and individuals, promoting the children's language and thinking and participating effectively in the play.
- There are good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The topic 'People who help us' extended effectively the children's interest in, and knowledge of the world around them and resulted in many examples of the children's developing creativity and stimulating imaginative role-play.
- The children are well-behaved, friendly and welcoming. They co-operate well with the staff.
- The staff make good efforts to identify and address the children's learning difficulties and to maintain effective liaison with the parents.

- The staff have worked hard to develop detailed and comprehensive planning and are beginning to take account of the children's differing needs.
- There is very effective leadership and a committed, enthusiastic team approach among the staff.

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

- The staff need to continue to develop the assessment methods to ensure that a more systematic approach is used to gather evidence of the children's progress and that the individual needs of all of the children are met.
- There is a need to develop further the physical play programme in order to provide the children with a greater variety of experiences which progress throughout the year.
- The centre requires more effective and focused support from its early years specialist.

7. The centre is at an early stage in developing its approaches to self-evaluation. The staff evaluate aspects of the programme each week and are beginning to work together to review appropriate areas of their work. This is a valuable base from which to develop a more structured approach to self-evaluation leading to improvement.

8. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address.

The pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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