



*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

Killyleagh Community Playgroup Co Down

Inspected: April 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Killyleagh Early Years Playgroup
Address:	The Bridge Centre Braeside Gardens KILLYLEAGH Co Down BT30 9QE
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	25 April 2007
Date of previous inspection:	5 March 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	24	-
• funded by Department of Education	24	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	7	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	5	-
• with English as an additional language	1	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	86%	-

* Special Educational Needs

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: ***	
Students	1
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	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	45.8%
Number of written comments:	5

KILLYLEAGH EARLY YEARS PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT30 9QE (4AB-0376)

1. The playgroup is accommodated in the local community centre which is shared with other organisations. Since the last inspection, there have been several staffing changes including the appointment of a new member of staff and a new early years specialist. The centre no longer operates a Highscope approach to delivering the curriculum. The centre has received additional funding from the local council to enlarge and develop the outdoor area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and the issues raised have been shared with the staff and management. A number of parents included written comments praising the work of the staff.

3. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. Some minor additions are needed to ensure they are comprehensive. The inspection evidence indicates that the policies and procedures are implemented by the staff.

4. The pre-school gives some consideration to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. There are some opportunities for the children to participate in physical activities.

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

- The playroom is bright and spacious with distinct areas for play. The children's own art work is displayed around the room.
- The daily routine is organised to provide an extended period of free play when the children can choose independently from a range of activities.
- Informal stories are read to small groups of children throughout the session.
- During the inspection, small groups of children were engaged in productive play at the floor area, creative area and in home role-play. At times, there were examples of useful support from the staff when they engaged in discussions with the children.
- The centre has developed links with the local primary schools and a parent and toddler group.

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

- The staff need to review urgently and implement consistently the centre's behaviour management policy to promote safe, settled and productive play.
- The staff need to improve the planning and assessment methods to develop a system which clearly identifies challenging and stimulating pre-school experiences, the learning to be promoted and how these experiences are matched to the needs of all the children.

- The quality of the staff's interaction needs to be improved to promote learning more effectively through the activities and routines.
- The staff need clearer leadership and guidance to bring about the improvements required.

7. The centre does not have a written development plan. The findings of this inspection report should provide the focus for future development planning and the actions needed to bring about the necessary improvements. The recently appointed early years specialist has made a useful start in identifying and prioritising these areas.

8. The pre-school centre has a few strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified substantial areas for improvement, which need to be addressed promptly.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

During the inspection:

- there were too many children using the climbing frame at one time and a number of children were playing with their shoes off resulting in unsafe play;
- there were no paper towels in the toilets for children to dry their hands on; and
- window cleaners came into the playroom to clean during the play session; the management need to review this practice.

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