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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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**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**

**Kilmood Playgroup  
Killinchy**

**Inspected: October 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Kilmood Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	St Mary's Church Hall Kilmood Church Road Killinchy NEWTOWNARDS Co Down BT23 6SA
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	15 October 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	10 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	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	26	-
• funded by Department of Education	26	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	6	-
• 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	90%	-

\* 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	0	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	4
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>
3hours	N/A	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	57.7%
Number of written comments:	8

**KILMOOD PLAYGROUP, KILLINCHY, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN BT23 6SA,  
(4AB-0377)**

1. The centre is situated in a church hall in the village of Kilmoody in Killinchy. The children come mainly 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. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has important strengths. The pre-school centre has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) Circulars. The staff now need to include an anti-bullying policy and procedures.

4. The pre-school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The centre provides an attractive and inviting environment; very good use is made of all available space to provide stimulating areas for play. A good range of the children's art work, posters and interest areas, supported by appropriate books and resources, stimulate the children's curiosity and knowledge of the environment.
- The activities on offer provide an interesting range of play experiences for the children and opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children are well settled and well-behaved. The centre's programme promotes effectively the children's personal, social and emotional development.
- The atmosphere and environment of the pre-school centre provide rich opportunities for the promotion of language and is a key strength of the centre's provision. High priority is given to developing the children's language through skilful talk and discussion, use of songs and rhymes and the promotion of good listening skills. A wide-range of information and story books is readily accessible and the children have good opportunities to develop a love of books. During the inspection, the children listened attentively and joined in appropriately to the well prepared and enjoyable story sessions. The children are introduced to text incidentally through captions displayed around the room and there are many opportunities to experiment with early writing during play. During the inspection, the staff used appropriate mathematical language as an integral part of the play.
- The staff provide the children with sustained support during play; their interaction and involvement with the children is of a high quality.
- The staff are hard-working and dedicated; they work well as a team in the best interests of the children. The staff have created a secure, supportive environment which helps the children grow in confidence and independence. The staff value

the children's efforts; the children are at ease with the staff and turn to them confidently to meet their needs.

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

- Continue to develop the planning and assessment methods; using the information from the observations of the children's play to guide the planning in order to meet more effectively the children's differing needs.

7. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in observing the practice in the playroom. Over the past few years, the centre has had a number of changes in early years specialist support and is currently in another transition period. As a result of the changes there are aspects of the centre's provision that require updating. It will be important that the centre's new early years specialist works closely with the staff in order to address the key areas for improvement identified in this report.

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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