



*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

Lissan Cross-Community Playgroup Cookstown

Inspected: October 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Lissan Cross-Community Playgroup
Address:	Claggan Road Lissan Churchtown COOKSTOWN Co Tyrone BT80 9XE
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	16 October 2008
Date of previous inspection:	20 May 2004

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• 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	0	-
• 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	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	95%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	-	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	-	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	-	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
3 hours	N/A	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	16
Percentage returned:	68.8%
Number of written comments:	4

**LISSAN CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE,
BT80 9XE (5AB-0216)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated on the Claggan Road, Lissan, around four miles from Cookstown. Since the last inspection there has been one change of staff. There are currently 16 children attending the centre.

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. A majority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and four made additional written comments. The responses from all of the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision. They are all very appreciative of:

- the friendly, resourceful leader and staff who know each child really well;
- the stimulating learning environment; and
- the wide range of indoor and outdoor activities provided for the children.

The responses from the management group and the staff were also very positive and supportive of the work of the pre-school centre. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the centre is outstanding. There is a warm, caring environment, the staff know the children and their families very well and relationships at all levels are excellent.

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

5. The centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The centre is involved in the 'Boost Better Breaks' scheme and there are regular opportunities for energetic outdoor play which 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 vibrant learning environment which promotes the children's creativity, confidence and independence; the atmosphere in the centre is very welcoming, happy and relaxed.
- The daily session is very well organised with effective, purposeful use of all of the time available; there is a very good balance between extended free play and adult-led activities, and the children have regular opportunities for energetic physical activity.
- The staff interact very effectively with the children to extend their thinking, to promote their learning and to foster an awareness of the world around them. The interactions are of a consistently high quality.

- There are excellent learning opportunities within the playroom and in the creative outdoor area to promote learning in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's language development and early science experiences are particular strengths of the programme.
- The planning is consistently of a high quality. It outlines clearly the planned progression and challenge for the children and includes the thoughtful creation of resources to stimulate and extend the children's learning. The planning is amended in response to the children's ideas and spontaneous play and evaluated appropriately.
- The centre is very well managed. The outstanding leadership and management of the leader is underpinned by highly effective team-work and the excellent contribution made by the assistants.

7. The staff have started to develop useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage some progress has been made in reflecting on the practice within the centre and in seeking the views of parents. The early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The regular support provided is well focused to meet the centre's curricular and staff development needs.

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

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