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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Department of Education**  
**Department for Employment and Learning**  
**Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Little Amps Playgroup  
Maghera, Londonderry**

**Inspected: February 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Little Amps Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	94 Kilrea Road Upperlands Maghera LONDONDERRY BT46 5SB
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	26 February 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	8 March 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	25	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	23	-
• funded by Department of Education	22	-
• 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	0	-
• 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	98%	-

\* 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	-	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	-	4
New appointments within previous 12 months	-	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>
3 hours	-	192

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	25
Percentage returned:	76%
Number of written comments:	8

## **LITTLE AMPS PLAYGROUP, MAGHERA, BT46 5SB (3BB-0269)**

1. The centre is situated in a mobile classroom in the grounds of Ampertaine Primary School. There is a small outdoor play area adjacent to the centre and the children also make use of the nearby school playground.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. All of those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with the provision.

3. The centre has a written policy for child protection which is shared with the parents, and is in line with the guidance given by the Department of Education. The staff understand and implement the procedures necessary to safeguard the welfare of the children.

4. The centre has begun to implement practices to promote healthy eating habits and a healthy lifestyle among the children. There are opportunities for the children to participate in a range of physical activities.

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

- There is a very positive ethos in the centre, and relationships between the adults and the children are warm and caring. The children appear happy and their behaviour is very good.
- The playrooms are bright and stimulating, with attractive and colourful displays of the children's work.
- There is a good range of appropriate activities to promote learning in almost all areas of the curriculum.
- During the inspection, there were many examples of children involved in concentrated and co-operative play.
- There were also some good examples of effective interaction between the staff and the children that helped to promote the children's thinking and understanding.
- The staff are hard-working and committed to improving the provision for the children.
- There is good communication with the parents and a range of appropriate methods is used to inform them about the work of the centre.

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

- to develop the provision for outdoor physical play to ensure challenge and progression in the children's experiences;

- to ensure that the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is more consistently of a high standard; and
- to review aspects of the organisation of the play session to ensure that effective use is made of all the time for learning.

7. The centre is at an early stage in developing its approaches to self-evaluation. The staff evaluate regularly aspects of the programme and have identified some appropriate areas for further development.

8. The centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few important areas for improvement which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

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

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