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*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**

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

#### **Little Diamonds Community Playgroup Claudy**

**Inspected: December 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Little Diamonds Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	The Diamond Centre 630 Barnahilt Road Claudy LONDONDERRY BT47 4EA
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	3 December 2009
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	17 November 2003

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	11	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	11	-
• 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	3	-
• 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	91%	-

\* 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	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	1
Trainees	1

\*\* 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>
2½ hours	0	190

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	10
Percentage returned:	80%
Number of written comments:	3

**LITTLE DIAMONDS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CLAUDY, CO LONDONDERRY,  
BT47 4EA (2AB-0035)**

1. The playgroup is situated in purpose-built premises within the facilities of the Diamond Community Centre in the village of Claudy. There are currently eleven children from the local area in attendance at the playgroup.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Most (80%) of the parents responded to the questionnaire and three made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicated a high level of satisfaction with the overall provision in the playgroup and in particular, they appreciate the caring ethos, the range of activities offered to the children and their involvement in the life and work of the playgroup. The responses from the management group and the staff questionnaires were also very positive. The management group commented on the dedication and commitment of the staff and the committee's involvement in the development planning process. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the playgroup.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the playgroup is outstanding. There is a warm and caring family atmosphere in the playgroup, parents are made to feel welcome and there is a strong sense of team-work among the staff and management committee.

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

5. The playgroup gives outstanding attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles. The healthy buffet snack provides opportunities for the children to discuss food preferences and further develop independence and social skills. The extensive outdoor provision is very good and the children have access to a range of activities to develop energetic and creative play.

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

- The staff have worked hard to create a caring, safe and stimulating environment in the playroom and in the outdoor areas. The children access well-organised, appropriately labelled resources for learning through play. They are settled and well-behaved; their play is purposeful and they demonstrate a positive attitude to learning through their enjoyment of the activities and engagement with staff.
- The daily timetable is well-organised and provides an appropriate balance of free play and adult directed activities both indoors and outdoors. The children are aware of the daily routine and are able to make choices and explore within the opportunities for learning through the range of activities.
- The staff operate a key worker system and make detailed observations in the children's individual stage of development which is used to inform future planning. Parents are informed of their child's progress three times during the year. The staff also provide opportunities for parents to discuss progress less formally when leaving and collecting their children.

- There are good to very good opportunities for learning across all the areas of the pre-school curriculum. There are particular strengths in the children's development of language and communication, early mathematical language and personal, social and emotional skills. The children are developing a sense of the world around them through play in the extensive outdoor and environmental area.
- The quality of the staff interaction is very good. Sensitive questioning and comment encourage the children to respond thus extending the learning across the pre-school curriculum. The children are at ease with the staff and are confident in asking questions and providing opinions.
- The relationships within the playgroup at all levels are very good. The dedicated leader is a very good role-model in her work with the children and she is ably-supported by the committed and hard-working assistant. The student and trainee staff made a valuable contribution to the work of the playgroup during the inspection. The management committee and parents have worked hard to provide funding for indoor and outdoor resources and there is a strong sense of team-work throughout the playgroup community.

7. The early years specialist (EYS) has made an excellent contribution to the overall development of the provision in the playgroup. The support provided is well-focused and matches effectively the needs of the playgroup. The staff and management committee have made a good start to development planning and with the support of the EYS should continue the process to improve further the provision and learning outcomes for the children.

8. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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