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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

Little Folk Playgroup Rostrevor

Inspected: October 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Little Folk Playgroup
Address:	The Lecture Hall 1 Cloughmore Road ROSTREVOR Co Down BT34 3EL
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	22 October 2007
Date of previous inspection:	7 May 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	17	-
• funded by Department of Education	14	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• 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	2	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	5	-
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	74%	-

* 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	3	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year 2

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:	14
Percentage returned:	50%
Number of written comments:	4

LITTLE FOLK PLAYGROUP, ROSTREVOR, CO DOWN, BT34 3EL (5AB-0336)

1. The centre is located in 'The Lecture Hall', off the main street, in Rostrevor. The premises are, at times, shared with other community groups. The children come mainly from the immediate and 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. In their responses, nearly all of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with most aspects of the centre's provision, the comments made, and an analysis of the questionnaires, has been shared with the staff.

3. The arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the centre have a few strengths. There are, however, important areas for improvement which require prompt action to ensure that the policies and procedures are fully in line with the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) Circulars. In particular, the centre needs to update and review the child protection training for the whole staff. The District Inspector will return to the pre-school to ensure that these important issues are addressed.

4. The school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, with a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily and be physically active.

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

- The staff make good use of the available space and create an attractive learning environment which is enhanced by examples of the children's art work. The children are settled and well-behaved; their play is often purposeful and many show a positive attitude to learning.
- There are satisfactory or good opportunities for learning in some aspects of the pre-school curriculum. There are particular strengths in the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, raising mathematical awareness and the attention given to developing the children's creative ideas. The staff need to develop the physical play programme in order to ensure more challenge and progression in the activities throughout the year and build more on the opportunities that arise during play to promote language development.
- The daily timetable is well organised and provides suitable periods of uninterrupted play during which the children have adequate time to make choices and to explore the range of activities.
- The staff are sensitive to the needs of the children and work together as a team.

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

- The staff need to ensure that the quality of their interaction with the children is more consistently of a high standard.

- The written planning needs to be developed further to identify clearly the learning to be promoted in all of the activities. In addition, appropriate observations of the children's responses to the activities need to be noted in order to track their progress and development over the year.
- Some aspects of the child protection policy need to be reviewed to ensure that the policies and procedures are fully in line with the guidance outlined in the relevant DE Circulars.

7. The staff are at an early stage in the process of self-evaluation.

8. The early years specialist (EYS) provides well focused support and guidance to the staff. It will be important that the staff work closely with their EYS in order to bring about the necessary improvements in the centre's work.

9. The pre-school centre has a few strengths in its educational provision. The inspection has identified important areas for improvement, which need to be addressed promptly if the pre-school centre is 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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