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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Little Rascals Playgroup  
Limavady**

**Inspected: March 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Little Rascals Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	Drumsum Road Drumsum LIMAVADY Co Londonderry BT49 0PX
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	5 March 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	23 January 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education	15	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• 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	95%	-

\* 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	3	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	0
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>
2½ hours	-	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned:	61%
Number of written comments:	5

**LITTLE RASCALS PLAYGROUP, DRUMSURN, LIMAVADY,  
CO LONDONDERRY, BT49 0PX (2AB-0316)**

1. Little Rascals Playgroup is situated in a mobile building within the grounds of the local parish church. The children come from within a radius of eight miles.
2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection.
3. The centre has a suitable written policy on child protection. Although the staff implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children, some of the procedures are being reviewed and are currently in draft form and have not been shared with the parents. The centre needs to ensure that members from the management committee receive appropriate training in child protection matters.
4. The pre-school centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle among the children. Very good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a wide range of energetic physical activities.
5. **The main strengths within the centre's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.**

- The very positive ethos promotes a settled and caring atmosphere, and very good relationships at all levels. The children respond well to the staff's approach to promoting good behaviour and are purposeful and productive in their play.
- The staff provide a very attractive and stimulating learning environment within the playroom and the entrance hall which encourages the children to observe, investigate and explore. The staff provide an interesting range of natural materials and items of interest for the children to observe and investigate.
- The daily timetable and necessary routines are organised to ensure smooth transitions and make the most effective use of all of the time available to promote learning.
- The staff are all committed to the children's welfare; they are skilful in naturally promoting language and a range of learning through the play activities, group sessions and daily routines.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced providing good or very good opportunities for learning across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum. A particular feature is the quality of experiences provided in the outdoor learning environment.
- The communication with the parents is very good. A good range of opportunities is provided to encourage the parents to become involved in the children's learning. There are very valuable links established with the local primary school, and with other professionals.

- There is good planning for the educational programme with clear identification of the learning the staff intend to promote. Since the last inspection, the staff have continued to improve their methods of planning the educational programme and assessing the children's progress and development.
- There is very effective leadership and a committed, enthusiastic team approach among the staff.

6. The centre is at an early stage in developing its approaches to self-evaluation. The staff evaluate aspects of the programme each week and are beginning to work together to review appropriate areas of their work. This is a valuable base from which to develop a more structured approach to self-evaluation leading to improvement.

7. The pre-school centre has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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