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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Meigh Community Playgroup  
Newry**

**Inspected: November 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Meigh Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	5A Drumintee Road Meigh Killeavy NEWRY Co Down BT35 8JT
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	20 November 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	12 November 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	26	-
• funded by Department of Education	26	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	2	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	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	86.6%	-

\* 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	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	4	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	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>
3 hours	-	189

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	50%
Number of written comments:	3

## **MEIGH COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT35 8TL (5AB-0329)**

1. The centre is situated in the village of Meigh, approximately four miles from the main town of Newry. Since the last inspection in 2001 the leader has continued in post with the support of some new and additional members of staff.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. There was a high level of praise and satisfaction for the work of the staff by the parents. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and a very few issues from the parental questionnaires have been shared with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the pre-school centre has important strengths. The pre-school centre has policies and procedures for child protection that address most aspects of the Department of Education Circulars and guidance. Some minor additions are needed to ensure they are comprehensive. These include the need to update the staff training, review the centres policies and procedures and ensure that they are shared with the parents. The inspection evidence indicates that the policies and procedures are implemented consistently by the staff.

4. The pre-school centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The staff provide a stimulating and supportive learning environment and celebrate the children's achievements. The quality of the relationships between the staff and the children are excellent.
- There are effective links with the local primary school and a cluster of pre-schools. The staff have established purposeful links with the parents and provide information on the children's progress and development.
- There is skilful interaction between the staff and the children which is effectively supporting the development of the children's language and thinking.
- There are very good opportunities for the children to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum; the opportunities to make choices, to take responsibility, to investigate, experiment and explore are key strengths of the provision.
- The special needs provision is inclusive of all the children's individual needs. There is appropriate liaison with the parents to maximise early intervention and learning support for individual children.
- The quality of the leadership and management is very good. The leader has a clear vision for good quality pre-school education and has participated in a study visit to Italy which has stimulated interest in the development of an eco-friendly learning environment. She is an enthusiastic role-model and ensures through a

culture of team-work the effective implementation of innovative ideas. The staff are hard-working and supportive of all the developments in pre-school education.

6. The staff have started to implement some useful methods of self-evaluation. They have focused on evaluation of the ethos and the outdoor provision. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has important strengths. The staff, with the continued support from the centre's EYS, is well placed to continue the developmental work required.

7. The quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is very good. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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