



*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**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Mullabuoy Pre-School Centre  
Drumahoe**

**Inspected: April 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Mullabuoy Pre-school Centre
<b>Address:</b>	c/o Mullabuoy Primary School DRUMAHOE Co Londonderry BT47 3HZ
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	23 April 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	21 February 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	16	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education	16	-
• 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	91%	-

\* 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	0	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	2

<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>
2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>12</sub> hours	-	186

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	16
Percentage returned:	62.5%
Number of written comments:	6

**MULLABUOY PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, DRUMAHOE, CO LONDONDERRY,  
BT47 3HZ (2BB-0341)**

1. The centre is situated in a classroom within Mullabuoy Primary School. Since the last inspection, there have been several staffing changes.

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 overall provision of the centre.

3. The centre has in place appropriate procedures for pastoral care and child protection. Some additions are needed, including the review and development of relevant aspects, to ensure they are sufficiently detailed and that the information is shared with the parents. The inspection evidence indicates that the existing policies and procedures are implemented consistently by the staff.

4. The pre-school centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. Good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a range of appropriate physical activities.

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

- There is a caring and supportive atmosphere based on good working relationships between the staff and the children.
- The staff provide an attractive and inviting learning environment within the playroom and the entrance area. They provide an interesting range of natural materials and items of interest for the children to observe and investigate.
- The staff spend sustained periods interacting with groups of children and with individuals, promoting the children's language and thinking and participating effectively in the play.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced providing good opportunities for learning across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum. During the inspection, the children demonstrated good levels of motivation, concentration and independence, displaying positive attitudes to learning.
- The promotion of the children's personal social and emotional development is a particular strength of the programme. The atmosphere and environment of the centre provide rich opportunities for the promotion of the children's language development.
- The communication with the parents is effective and provides good opportunities for them to participate in the education of their children. In addition to the informal meetings with the parents each day, the staff meet formally with the parents three times a year, to discuss the children's progress.
- Effective links have been established with the primary school.

- The leader is well organised and motivated and demonstrates a strong commitment to providing quality provision for the children and families in the community. There is a developing sense of team-work and enjoyment among the recently appointed staff.

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

- The staff need to continue to develop the methods of planning and assessment to ensure that the information gained through the observations of the children's play is used to inform the plans.
- The programme for physical play requires further development in order to provide the children with a greater variety of experiences. The staff have appropriately begun to plan this development.
- The staff need to review the organisation of the latter part of the session in order to ensure that effective use is made of all of the time available to promote learning.

7. The staff have developed an appropriate approach to self-evaluation and have made use of the document 'Together Towards Improvement' and the DVD 'Improvement Through Self-Evaluation'. They have identified the development of the children's language, have collaborated as a team to introduce and monitor new approaches. As the staff continue to develop this aspect of their work they should draw up a development plan and associated action plans in order to focus more clearly on the improvements to be made in learning and teaching.

8. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address. The pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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