

*eti*

*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**

**Oakwood Integrated Children's Centre**  
**Belfast**

**Inspected: February 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Oakwood Integrated Children's Centre
<b>Address:</b>	48 The Cutts Derriaghy BELFAST BT17 9HN
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	17 February 2009
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	20 March 2003

### 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	24	-
• funded by Department of Education	24	-
• 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	2	-
• 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	76.5%	-

\* 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	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

<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	N/A	190

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned:	34.8%
Number of written comments:	3

**OAKWOOD INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S CENTRE, DERRIAGHY, BELFAST, BT17 9HN (4BB-0473)**

1. The centre is situated in purpose-built accommodation in the grounds of Oakwood Integrated Primary School, on The Cutts, Derriagh. The children who attend the centre come from a wide catchment area. There are currently 24 children attending the centre.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Eight parents responded to the questionnaire and three made additional written comments. The responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and, in particular, they appreciate the helpful staff and the happy, friendly atmosphere of the centre. The responses from the management group and the staff were also positive and supportive of the work of the centre. All of the responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is very good. The staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare and development of the children. There is a caring and supportive ethos based on the very good working relationships between the staff and children.

4. The centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department but the following minor areas need to be addressed:

- to review the documentation used for the purposes of risk assessment for trips; and
- to ensure parents are fully aware of and signed up to all of the necessary pre-school policies and procedures.

5. The centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- the learning environment is vibrant and well organised, with colourful displays that celebrate the children's work;
- the organisation of the session is well planned and provides a balance of extended periods of freely chosen play and group activities, which are led by the staff. The routines and transitions are unobtrusive and help promote the children's confidence and independence;
- during the inspection, there were many very good examples of skilful interaction by the staff that extended the children's language and thinking skills;

- there are good opportunities for the children to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths of the programme are the promotion of the children's early mathematical and scientific concepts; most of the children are making good progress in their knowledge and understanding of these areas;
- the planning and assessment methods are effective. The information from the observation of the children's activities and interactions is used well, and increasingly, to plan activities to meet their individual interests and needs; and
- the centre operates an extended schools provision and links effectively with the local primary school.

**7. The inspection identified an area for improvement. The following is the most important area that needs attention.**

- To develop further the programme for outdoor physical play.

8. The pre-school centre is managed well by the centre manager. She is ably supported by the playgroup leader, staff team and the early years specialist; they all contribute effectively to the good quality of the provision. The staff need, however, to develop a strategic approach to self-evaluation to sustain improvement in the children's learning experiences.

9. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school centre is good. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The following matters of concern were observed and brought to the attention of the leader and the management group.

- The locking mechanism of the gate in the outdoor play area needs to be reviewed to make it more secure.
- The need to review the use of and adult supervision of a concealed area of the outdoor playground.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.