



*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

**Paddington Playgroup
Galbally, Dungannon**

Inspected: November 2006

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Paddington Playgroup
Address:	36 Lurgylea Road Galbally DUNGANNON Co Tyrone BT70 2NX
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	15 November 2006
Date of previous inspection:	7 November 2000

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	20	-
• funded by Department of Education	20	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	3	-
• 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	-
Attendance:		-
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	96%	-

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

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainees	1

*** Total placements since September of current year

3. Details of Sessions

Duration of morning session	Duration of afternoon session	Number of days open in previous year
2½ hours	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	20
Percentage returned:	55%
Number of written comments:	4

**PADDINGTON PLAYGROUP, GALBALLY, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE,
BT70 2NX (5AB-0309)**

1. Paddington Playgroup is situated in dedicated accommodation within Galbally Community Centre. The children come mainly from the surrounding rural area. Since the last inspection, a new leader has been appointed. The current leader has been in post since September 2003.

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, and all those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision.

3. The pre-school centre has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the staff implement these policies and procedures effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

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:

- the centre has a very positive ethos with a clear sense of purpose, and relationships at all levels are excellent. The staff are caring and supportive and the children show high levels of confidence, independence and self-esteem. They respond well to the adults' expectations and their behaviour is very good;
- although space within the playroom is restricted, the staff have worked hard to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment. The children's work is thoughtfully displayed and interest areas have been created to extend the children's thinking skills;
- the daily timetable is carefully organised to provide a good balance of free play and adult-led activities. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to provide choice and promote the children's independence;
- there are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff work hard to promote the children's personal, social and emotional development and are skilful in developing the children's language skills across all areas of the curriculum;
- the staff are caring and supportive, and their interactions with the children are very effective in promoting sustained, concentrated and purposeful play;
- appropriate systems of planning have been developed which effectively guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children; the staff monitor and record the children's progress and use this information to inform the planning; and

- the staff have developed effective links with the parents and a variety of appropriate methods is used to inform the parents of their children's progress and to involve them in the life of the centre.

6. The centre is managed effectively and the leader demonstrates a strong commitment to the well-being of the children and to the development of the centre. The staff work very well as a team and regularly evaluate aspects of the programme. A development plan has recently been drawn up which identifies appropriate areas for improvement. The staff have made use of the Education and Training Inspectorate's "Together Towards Improvement" materials to help them begin the process of self-evaluation. The leader and staff should now consider ways of developing a more structured approach to self-evaluation to provide a focus for continued 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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