



*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

**Park Community Playgroup
Claudy**

Inspected: June 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name of pre-school centre: | Park Community Playgroup |
| Address: | Learmount Resource Centre 201c Learmount Road Park CLAUDY Co Londonderry BT47 4BA |
| Management Type: | Voluntary |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Date of inspection: | 6 June 2007 |
| Date of previous inspection: | 6 March 2001 |

1. Details of Children

| Total number of children: | am session | pm session |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| • 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 | 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 | - |
| Attendance: | | |
| • attendance** of funded children for the previous school year | 90% | - |

* 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 | 0 | 4 |
| Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications | 0 | 4 |
| New appointments within previous 12 months | 0 | 0 |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Number of: *** | |
| Students | 0 |
| Trainees | 0 |

*** 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 | - | 188 |

4. Parental Questionnaires

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Number issued to parents: | 24 |
| Percentage returned: | 46% |
| Number of written comments: | 5 |

REPORT OF AN INSPECTION IN PARK COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CLAUDY, CO LONDONDERRY, BT47 4BA (2AB-0313)

1. The centre is situated in purpose-built accommodation within Learmount Resource Centre. The children come from the surrounding rural area. Since the last inspection a new leader has been appointed and took up post in November 2003. A new assistant was appointed and took up post in September 2004 and a safe and attractive outdoor play area has been developed.

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 any issues raised have been shared with the staff. Those who responded expressed high levels of satisfaction with the work of the centre.

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 and a healthy lifestyle among the children. 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 and the atmosphere is calm and purposeful. Relationships are excellent at all levels; the children respond well to the staff and their behaviour is excellent.
- The staff have created an attractive learning environment based on the principles of the HighScope programme.
- The daily session is well-organised and provides a balance of child-initiated play and appropriate adult-led activities. The routines and transitions are unobtrusive and used effectively to promote the children's independence.
- The interactions between the staff and the children are of a high quality. The staff are very skilful in extending the children's language and thinking, offering choice and helping the children to problem-solve and make decisions.
- The children are well-motivated and interested in the activities which they help to plan. During the inspection, there were many instances of co-operative and concentrated play.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths are the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of their language skills.
- The staff provide sensitive support for those children with special educational needs.

- Good links have been established with the parents and with other professionals. The centre has a strong working relationship with the primary school to which most of the children will transfer.
- The written planning is very focused on the needs and interests of individual children and of small groups; the staff regularly assess and record the children's progress in learning.

6. The centre is well managed and there is a strong sense of shared values and team-spirit among the staff. They demonstrate a sound understanding of the principles and philosophy underpinning the HighScope programme. The centre's early years specialist provides well focused training and support which matches effectively the needs of the staff. There is a culture of continuous reflection and self-evaluation in the centre and the staff make good use of the HighScope "Programme Quality Assessment" tool to identify appropriate areas for improvement. The leader and staff should now work with the management committee to create a development plan for the centre, which will provide a focus for, and evidence of, ongoing improvement in provision and practice.

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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