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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

**Poppins Pre-School
Moira**

Inspected: January 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Poppins Pre-School
Address:	Poppins Day Nursery 17 Chestnut Hill Road MOIRA Co Armagh BT67 0LW
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	16 January 2008
Date of previous inspection:	24 October 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• 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	1	-
• 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	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	92%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	2	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	2	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:	16
Percentage returned:	81%
Number of written comments:	8

POPPINS PRE-SCHOOL, POPPINS DAY NURSERY, MOIRA, CO ARMAGH, BT67 0LW (4CA-0378)

1. The pre-school centre is situated on the outskirts of Moira, and is accommodated in a private dwelling which has been converted into a Day Nursery. The children have access to a safe and secure outdoor play area. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes. A new pre-school supervisor was appointed and took up post in September 2007. A new early years specialist was assigned to the centre in November 2007. On the day of the inspection, six children were taking part in an Open Day at a local primary school.

2. The parents and staff were given the opportunity 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 by the parents have been shared with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is very good. 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 centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The centre has a warm, welcoming atmosphere and relationships at all levels are very good.
- The children show high levels of confidence, independence and self-esteem. They are settled, competent and very articulate. They respond well to the staff and their behaviour is very good.
- The daily session is planned carefully to provide suitable periods of freely chosen play, both indoors and in the outdoor play area.
- The staff's interactions with the children are caring and supportive; they work hard to make the best use of the space available to provide clearly defined areas for play.
- The long-term planning outlines a broad, balanced programme for the children, designed to foster their all-round development.

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

- The staff need to be more aware of the learning to be developed within the short-term planning, in order to create a more enriched learning environment, to provide more challenge for the children and to extend their thinking skills.

- The methods for assessing and recording the children's development and attainment should be developed further, so that the children's interests and capabilities are taken more fully into account within the planned programme.

7. The newly-established staff team in the pre-school is committed to the development of the centre. They meet regularly to plan and evaluate the programme and have recently carried out an audit of the centre's provision. They have identified appropriate areas for review, including the quality of the centre's special educational needs provision. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS), in the short time she has been in post, has strengths, including the guidance given on the management of space and resources. However, a few important areas of the centre's work have been identified for improvement. It will be important that staff work closely with the EYS in order to address these key areas for improvement.

8. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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