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*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

**Portrush Early Years Setting
Co Antrim**

Inspected: March 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Portrush Early Years Setting
Address:	Crocknamac Road PORTRUSH Co Antrim BT56 8JW
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	1 March 2007
Date of previous inspection:	8 March 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• 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 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	5	-
Attendance:		
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	98%	-

* Children whose parents are in receipt of Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's allowance

** 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	-	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	-	4
New appointments within previous 12 months	-	1

Number of: ***	
Students	3
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
2 5/6 hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	73%
Number of written comments:	12

PORTRUSH EARLY YEARS SETTING, CO ANTRIM, BT56 8JW (3AB-0367)

1. The centre is situated in the grounds of Portrush Primary School, Crocknamac Road, Portrush. Most of the children come from Portrush and the surrounding rural area.
2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. Most of the responses indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the provision; a few minor issues raised have been shared with the staff.
3. The centre implements appropriate procedures for child protection, in line with the relevant Department of Education Circulars, to safeguard the welfare of the children. The policy is shared with the parents. The leader has identified, appropriately, the need to update the child protection training for two members of staff.
4. The centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating habits and a healthy lifestyle among the children. There are good opportunities for the children to participate in a wide range of appropriate physical activities.
5. The main strengths within the centre's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.
 - The very positive ethos helps to promote the children's confidence, self-esteem and excellent behaviour. The playroom is attractively presented and the well-organised environment helps to foster a settled climate for learning where the children's play is both purposeful and productive.
 - The daily timetable provides suitable periods of uninterrupted play during which the children have adequate time to make choices and to explore appropriately the full range of activities.
 - There are significant strengths in the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development. There is strong encouragement for the children to develop an interest in books; they pay close attention during story sessions and explore information books during their play. The staff make excellent use of the play opportunities to develop the children's conversational skills and use appropriate questions to extend and develop language and learning.
 - Excellent use is made of seasonal and environmental topics, which extend the children's knowledge of, and interest in, the world around them. The children's early technological ideas are beginning to be developed with a range of constructional and scrap materials. Well-planned play activities provide the children with opportunities to investigate the properties of sand and water. A wide range of early mathematical concepts and language are promoted in an appropriately informal manner throughout the session.

- The planning and assessment methods are very effective. The information is used well to plan activities to meet the children's individual interests and needs.
- The staff provide sensitive and effective support for the children identified as having additional learning needs.

6 The leader is highly motivated and provides outstanding leadership. She generates a very strong sense of team-work and enjoyment among the hard-working and dedicated staff. The centre's development plan identifies appropriate areas for review and development and demonstrates the staff's reflective approach to evaluating their work. They are taking suitable steps to address these areas, and to improve further the children's learning opportunities, for example, through the provision of a natural outdoor play environment.

7. The quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is excellent. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being very 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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