

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Puddleducks Playgroup,  
Omagh

Report of an Inspection  
in November 2012



Providing Inspection Services for  
Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

CUSTOMER  
SERVICE  
EXCELLENCE



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In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school setting:</b>	Puddleducks Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	15 Drudgeon Road Clanabogan OMAGH Co Tyrone BT78 1TJ
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	22 November 2012
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	9 November 2005

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
attending the pre-school setting	22	-
in their immediate pre-school year	22	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	22	-
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	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	87%	-

\* Special Educational Needs = fewer than five

\*\* 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	0	3
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification	0	3
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	0	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

<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	-	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	22
Percentage returned	64%
Number of written comments:	10

## 1. Introduction

Puddleducks Playgroup is situated in the Camphill Community, Clanabogan, Omagh. The children have appropriately supervised access to the wide range of learning experiences available as part of the unique community, such as, the farmyards, the vegetable gardens and the woodland areas. Most of the children come from the surrounding rural area.

## 2. Inspection methods and evidence base

The inspection evaluations are based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from a range of documentation provided by the playgroup.

The views of the parents, staff, and management group were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Twenty-two questionnaires were issued to the parents and fourteen were returned with ten written comments. All of the staff and five members of the management group also returned the questionnaires with written comments. All of the returns from the questionnaires indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of the work of the playgroup. The parents highlighted their children's enjoyment of the learning opportunities provided for them, in particular, the use of the natural, outdoor learning environment which they reported enriches the children's empathy, knowledge and understanding of nature. The reporting inspector discussed the responses and the comments with the staff, leader and a member of the management group who attended the oral report back.

## 3. Overall finding of the inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The playgroup has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements Quality of Provision Leadership and management	Outstanding Outstanding Outstanding
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### KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

## 4. Children's Achievements

**The quality of the children's achievements is outstanding.**

- Almost all of the children are well- settled and engage in purposeful play across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They demonstrate high levels of independence in their decision-making and selection and use of a wide range of play resources to sustain their play. A small number of children are supported skilfully and sensitively by the staff to engage them more fully in play with their peers.

- The atmosphere and environment of the playgroup provide outstanding opportunities for the development of the children's language, mathematical and early scientific skills; these skills are progressing appropriately in accordance with each child's developmental stage. There is very good encouragement for the children to develop an interest in books; they pay close attention during the excellent story session and explore information books during their play.

## 5. Provision for Learning

### **The quality of the provision for learning is outstanding.**

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the playgroup is outstanding. The positive working relationships at all levels foster an inclusive and supportive family ethos throughout the playgroup. The underpinning child-centred philosophy of the playgroup's approach to learning is exemplified in the practice whereby the children's imaginative and creative dispositions to learning are developed effectively and valued on an individual basis.
- There are outstanding learning opportunities in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum; of significant note are the development of the children's personal, social and emotional well-being, language and physical skills. Excellent use is made of seasonal and environmental topics, which extend the children's knowledge of, and interest in, the world around them.
- The quality of the staff's interactions is consistently very good with many examples of outstanding discussions with the children that extend their thinking skills. The staff respond effectively to the children's interests and needs; they model the desired learning behaviours and language very effectively. The children respond positively to their peers and staff.
- The planning is comprehensive and is informed effectively by the staff's perceptive observations and evaluations of the children's progress.
- The parents are kept well informed through monthly newsletters and the relevant reports on their child's progress. They are involved in successful whole-family events as an integral part of the children's learning experiences, for example, the recent 'Lantern Festival.'
- The playgroup gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity; for example, the children harvest the vegetables from the garden and make their healthy snacks. They have very good opportunities for physical play outdoors and nature walks in the grounds of the community setting. All of the learning experiences encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

## 6. Leadership and Management

### **The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.**

- All members of staff are an integral part of the dedicated and highly skilled team. The leader has established a culture of reflection and review that is evident within the staff's practice. They receive a very good quality of professional advice from the early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation (EYO). This is exemplified in the appropriate development plan and the

associated action plans that identify a cycle of continuous improvement which benefits the children's learning experiences. The management committee, leader, staff and parents work collaboratively to ensure a very high quality of pre-school provision.

- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the playgroup has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The playgroup has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.



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