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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

Rainbow Community Playgroup Omagh

Inspected: October 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Rainbow Community Playgroup
Address:	The Station Centre 18 James Street OMAGH Co Tyrone BT78 1QJ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	2 October 2008
Date of previous inspection:	11 June 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	13	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	9	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	9	-
• 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	0	-
• with English as an additional language	1	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	3	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	87.5%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	2

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
2¾ hours	-	192

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	13
Percentage returned:	46.2%
Number of written comments:	2

**RAINBOW COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 1QJ
(2AB-0344)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated near to the centre of Omagh town. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes and the leader is recently appointed. There are currently 13 children attending the centre.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A significant minority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and two made additional written comments. The responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and the vast majority of them appreciate:

- the dedication of the staff to the children's learning and well-being; and
- the supportive atmosphere in the pre-school centre.

The response from the management group and the staff was also very positive and supportive of the work of the pre-school centre. All of the responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is very good. The staff work well as a team and demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children. The relationships at all levels are very good.

4. The pre-school centre's arrangements for safeguarding children are unsatisfactory and do not adequately reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department. In particular the pre-school centre needs to:

- appoint a deputy designated child protection officer from within the staff team;
- update the training in child protection for the leader and a member of the management group; and
- ensure all the policies and procedures are up-to-date, kept under review, clearly documented, and understood by the parents and the staff.

5. The pre-school centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

6. The main strengths within the pre-school centre's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.

- The inclusive, caring ethos promotes the children's confidence, self-esteem and good behaviour. The well-organised environment helps to foster a settled climate for learning where the children's play is both purposeful and productive.
- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner and the quality of their interactions are consistently of a high standard.

- There are good learning opportunities in almost all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's language and mathematical awareness are particular strengths of the programme.
- The staff have developed appropriate methods of planning and assessment; good efforts are made by them to address the needs of all the children.
- The leader is a good role-model and is effective in promoting a strong team-spirit among the hard-working staff.

7. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following is the most important area that needs attention.

- The management group, early years specialist (EYS) and the staff need to update the child protection procedures and effectively communicate them to the parents.

8. The staff are at an early stage of self-evaluation. The contribution made by the pre-school centre's EYS has important strengths including the cluster support and the appropriate start made to development planning. The staff, with the continued support from the pre-school centre's EYS, are well placed to continue the policy updates and developmental work required.

9. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school centre is good. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) will monitor the pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement.

The Inspectorate will undertake a follow-up visit, within six working weeks, to evaluate the actions taken and planned to address the deficiency identified in the pre-school centre's arrangements for child protection.

APPENDIX 1

HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

1. The presence of a caged bird in the playroom may prove a potential health risk to some of the children or adults.
2. The socket in the kitchen is loose and a potential hazard for the staff.

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