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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Department of Education  
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Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Rainbow Corner Playgroup  
Moira**

**Inspected: January 2008**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Rainbow Corner Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	2 Main Street MOIRA Co Armagh BT67 0LE
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	28 January 2008
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	23 January 2003

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	22	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	22	-
• funded by Department of Education	22	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• 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	98%	-

\* 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
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
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	-	205

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	22
Percentage returned:	68.2%
Number of written comments:	8

## **RAINBOW CORNER PLAYGROUP, MOIRA, CO ARMAGH, BT67 0LE (4AB-0441)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in an Orange Hall in the centre of Moira. Since the last inspection, refurbishments have been carried out to the kitchen area and the children's toilets. A safe, secure outdoor play area has also 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. A small number of parents provided written comments expressing concern about the quality of the accommodation.

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 very positive ethos and relationships at all levels are very good. The children demonstrate high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They respond well to the adults' expectations and their behaviour is very good.
- The staff work hard to make the best use of the space available within the building to create a stimulating and interesting learning environment for the children.
- The daily timetable is carefully organised to provide long periods of uninterrupted free play. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to provide choice and promote the children's independence.
- The staff interact skilfully with the children in order to exploit the learning potential within the various play activities. The children are responsive, interested and well-motivated; during the inspection, there were many instances of settled, concentrated and purposeful play.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. A particular strength is the quality of the children's language development and their understanding and enjoyment of aspects of the world around them.
- The short-term planning is detailed and informed by the staff's observations of the children's progress. It provides valuable guidance for the staff in their work with the children.

6. The leader and the staff are enthusiastic and dedicated to the development of the centre. The team is experienced and well-established, and all the staff participate in decision-making, planning the programme and evaluating the provision. They have identified appropriate areas for review and improvement, including the development of the outdoor play area, strengthening the links with the parents and building further the staff's expertise in relation to special educational needs. The leader recognises the need to create a development plan with appropriate action plans to take this work forward. A new early years specialist (EYS) was appointed to the centre in November 2007. The staff, with clearly-focused support from the centre's EYS, are well placed to continue the developmental work required.

7. The quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is very good. 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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