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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

Redburn Community Playgroup Holywood

Inspected: May 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Redburn Community Playgroup
Address:	Jackson's Road HOLYWOOD Co Down BT18 9EZ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	21 May 2007
Date of previous inspection:	21 May 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education	16	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	2	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	0	-
• 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	75%	-

* 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	3	-
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	-
New appointments within previous 12 months	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
3 hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	12.5%
Number of written comments:	1

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF REDBURN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, HOLYWOOD, CO DOWN, BT18 9EZ (4AB-0379)

1. The playgroup is situated in the Community Centre in the Redburn Estate in Holywood. The children come from a wide catchment area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. Those who responded indicated a high level of satisfaction with the overall provision of the centre. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and any issues raised have been shared with the staff and the management group.

3. The centre has an appropriate written policy on child protection which is shared with the management committee and the parents.

4. The pre-school centre gives consideration to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. There are opportunities for the children to participate in some physical activities.

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

- The centre has a very positive ethos based on good working relationships at all levels. The children respond well to the staff's expectations and their behaviour is good.
- The staff have to set up and clear away the activities every day; they make very good efforts to create an attractive and stimulating environment for the children. Good use is made of the children's own art work, photographs, posters and interest areas to stimulate the children's curiosity and learning.
- Communication and links with the parents is good; a variety of appropriate methods is used to encourage the parents to play a full role in the education of their children.
- The centre's educational programme provides good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, language and early scientific skills are particular strengths of the programme.
- The children's play is settled and many show good concentration in their activities; they are encouraged to become independent and to make choices.
- The written planning is developing well and is helpful in guiding the staff in their work with the children; there are aspects of the assessment methods that require further development.

- During the inspection, there were many occasions when the skilful involvement of the staff in the children's play promoted the children's language and learning effectively. The staff often provided the children with new ideas, praise and encouragement, which assisted the children to persevere with their chosen task, develop their concentration and extend their play.
- The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The organisation and provision of additional resources provides very good opportunities for the children to extend their play and help to motivate and sustain their interest in the activities.
- Since the last inspection, the leader, with the support of the management committee and wider community, has brought about many improvements in the work of the centre; she is enthusiastic, gives effective leadership and demonstrates commitment to developing the work of the centre.
- There is a strong sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff who all contribute to the good quality of the provision. The staff clearly enjoy their work with the children and promote a sense of fun.
- The newly developed outdoor play area has the potential to provide very good opportunities for the staff to broaden the children's learning experiences and for the development of a wider range of physical skills.

6. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in reviewing aspects of the provision. The staff, with the support of the centre's early years specialist, should now target specific aspects of the centre's work, recording clearly the improvements that have been brought about through the self-evaluation process.

7. The pre-school centre has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The 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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