

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Straidarran Community  
Playgroup, Claudy

Report of an Inspection  
in January 2013

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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>	Straidarran Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	520 Glenshane Road CLAUDY Co Londonderry BT47 4BT
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	16 January 2013
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	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	19	-
in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	11	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	2	-
with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	2	-
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	90%	-

\* 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	3	1
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification	4	0
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	0	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	2
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>
2.5 hours	-	187

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	11
Percentage returned	45%
Number of written comments:	3

## 1. Introduction

Straidarran Community Playgroup is located in a community hall in the townland of Straidarran near Claudy in County Londonderry. Since the last inspection, in November 2005, a new assistant has been appointed and the outdoor play area has been developed.

## 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 and staff were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Five of the parents (45%) responded to the questionnaire; a small number of these parents made additional written comments. All of the responses from the parental questionnaires indicated a high level of satisfaction with the quality of the provision within the playgroup; in particular, the parents expressed their appreciation of the caring and supportive staff. The responses from the staff and management committee were also positive and supportive of the work of the playgroup.

## 3. Overall finding of the inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

Summary of key findings

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

### 4. Children's achievements

- The children are very well settled and engage in purposeful, concentrated play.
- During the inspection, all of the children displayed high levels of independence and self-management skills; they readily accessed the resources available and showed a clear understanding of the playgroup's routines.
- The children engage in sustained role-play; they interact well with each other and with the adults. They make very good use of the books and writing materials provided throughout the playroom; the standard of mark-making achieved by the children is very good.

## 5. Provision for learning

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the playgroup is outstanding; there is a strong, positive ethos throughout. The staff know the children well; they regularly ask them for their views on the playgroup's provision and respond appropriately.
- During the inspection, the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children ranged from good to outstanding. In the best practice, the staff modelled play, built on the children's ideas and developed their language through the use of open -ended questioning.
- The staff have worked hard to create an attractive environment for the children. The children's work is displayed well throughout the playroom.
- The staff have developed a rigorous and systematic approach to observing the children at play and to recording their responses. The staff use this information well to inform both their short-term planning for the activities provided and to meet the needs of individual children.
- The children are provided with a healthy snack and have regular opportunities for energetic physical play.

## 6. Leadership and management

- The staff have developed well the process of self-evaluation. They regularly consult the children and parents in evaluating the playgroup's provision; they have clearly identified appropriate areas for development.
- The staff have developed very good links with the parents. They keep them up to date with their child's progress and inform them about aspects of the provision and work of the playgroup through a regular, informative newsletter and curriculum evenings. The playgroup has good links with the local primary schools.
- The early years specialist, from the Early Years Organisation (EYO), provides very good guidance and support for the staff.
- 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 Department of Education.

## CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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