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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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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

Sunshine Community Playgroup Lisburn

Inspected: October 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Sunshine Community Playgroup
Address:	Killultagh Hall Legaterriff Road Upper Ballinderry LISBURN Co Antrim BT28 2EY
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	18 October 2007
Date of previous inspection:	22 October 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	26	-
• funded by Department of Education	26	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• with a statement of SEN*	2	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	1	-
• 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	95%	-

* 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	2	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: ***	
Students	1
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
2.5 hours	N/A	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	73.1%
Number of written comments:	7

**SUNSHINE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 2EY
(4AB-0383)**

1. The centre is situated in Killultagh Hall in Upper Ballindery. 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. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection. In their responses, all of the parents were very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision. Some of the parents added written comments praising the staff and the positive ethos of the centre.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the school is very good. The pre-school has procedures in place which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) Circulars. The staff are fully aware of the centre's procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children. Among the strengths are the quality of the relationships throughout the centre; the very caring and supportive ethos; and the high quality of pastoral care provision.

4. The school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place 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 is attractive and stimulating with interesting displays of natural materials, photographs, posters and many examples of the children's art work. The staff have put much thought into creating well-resourced areas for play. The centre has a good range of quality furniture and resources.
- The staff create a friendly, caring atmosphere and have good relationships with the children, the parents and the management group.
- The centre's programme provides satisfactory learning opportunities in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff provide a wide-range of play activities and learning experiences for the children. The attention given to developing the children's creativity is a particular strength of the centre's provision.
- The staff are hard-working and dedicated; they work well as a team. It is evident that the staff clearly enjoy their work with the children.

6. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention.

- Develop the planning to identify the learning to be promoted in order to guide the staff more effectively in their day-to-day work with the children.
- Develop further the methods of assessment ensuring the information is used to inform the planning.

7. The staff are at an early stage of developing methods of self-evaluation.

8. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist has a few strengths in developing the centre's work. The staff require more focused and regular support from their early years specialist in order to bring about the necessary improvements identified in this report.

9. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few important areas for improvement which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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