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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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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 Playgroup**  
**Belfast**

**Inspected: November 2008**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Sunshine Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	Currie Primary School 111-113 Limestone Road BELFAST BT15 3AB
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	12 November 2008
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	20 March 2003

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	19	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	19	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	19	-
• 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	3	-
• 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	87%	-

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

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	1
Trainees	1

\*\* 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>
3½ hours	N/A	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	17
Percentage returned:	41.2%
Number of written comments:	3

## **SUNSHINE PLAYGROUP, BELFAST, BT15 3AB (1BB-0492)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in Currie Primary School in north Belfast. Since the last inspection the number of children receiving funded places has increased from eight to 19. An additional member of staff has been employed.

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. Seven of the parents responded to the questionnaire; the responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and they praised the work of the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is good. There is a very caring and supportive ethos within the centre and a commitment to working with other agencies to support the children and their families.

4. **The pre-school centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department but the following area needs to be addressed:**

- to review and update the policies for behaviour management, special educational needs and child protection to ensure they are fully comprehensive.

5. The centre gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity.

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

- There is a very positive ethos based on good working relationships which promote the children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The staff demonstrate a high level of skill in promoting a wide range of language and learning and achieve good levels of engagement as they interact with the children during their activities.
- The staff plan a broad and balanced pre-school programme which provides good opportunities for learning in all areas of the curriculum. Particular features include the good opportunities to explore and engage in musical activities, the children's high levels of independence and concentrated play, and the promotion of their social skills.
- There is very good promotion of the children's language through sustained discussion, well managed group story sessions and the informal promotion of books and rhymes.

- Effective pastoral and curricular links with the adjoining primary school are well developed, with an appropriate focus on ensuring progression in the children's learning and a smooth transition into year 1.
- The leader works effectively, is a good role-model in her own work with the children and promotes a strong sense of team-work among the hard-working staff.

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

- The staff need to build on the current planning and assessment methods to improve the use being made of the available information to tailor the programme more closely to individual children's needs and interests.
- Develop the opportunities for the children to experience a broader range of well planned and challenging learning experiences outdoors.

8. The staff work closely with the centre's early years specialist (EYS) to identify some appropriate areas for action in their development plan. This plan should be amended to take account of the inspection findings. The staff value the support and guidance offered by the EYS. This role should now be reviewed and developed further by the management to ensure sufficient time is available for the monitoring and evaluation of practice in the classroom, and for continuous professional development.

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

**HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS**

The staff should carry out a risk assessment on:

- the use of handtowels in the playroom;
- the use of the small trampoline; and
- controlled access to the playroom.

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