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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

**The Magic Roundabout Playgroup
Sixmilecross, Omagh**

Inspected: January 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	The Magic Roundabout Playgroup
Address:	173 Altamuskin Road Sixmilecross OMAGH Co Tyrone BT 79 9JA
Management Type:	Private

Date of inspection:	17 January 2008
Date of previous inspection:	9 October 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	12	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	8	-
• funded by Department of Education	7	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• 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	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	98%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: **	
Students	0
Trainees	1

** 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 ³ / ₄ hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	12
Percentage returned:	83%
Number of written comments:	4

**THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT PLAYGROUP, SIXMILECROSS, OMAGH,
CO TYRONE BT79 9JA (2AB-0458)**

1. The centre is situated in the community hall approximately three miles outside the town of Sixmilecross. Since the last inspection an assistant has been appointed.

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. Nearly all those who responded indicated a high level of satisfaction with the overall provision of the centre. A significant minority of parents included written comments praising the positive ethos of the centre and the work of the staff.

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 pre-school centre gives very 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.

- There is a warm, happy and caring atmosphere within the playroom. The children respond well to the staff's approach to promoting positive behaviour and are well settled and purposeful in their play. Relationships are very good at all levels. The quality of the learning environment is excellent.
- The staff are highly skilful in naturally promoting language and a full range of learning through the play activities, group sessions and daily routines. They use skilful questioning, extend the children's ideas and thinking and match their support appropriately to the children's abilities.
- The smooth organisation of the day ensures that all the time is used effectively to promote learning. The snack time is organised informally and there are very good opportunities for the children to develop independence and social skills.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of language and literacy, early science ideas and the developing provision for outdoor play are particular strengths.
- The staff team have a good shared understanding of the learning to be promoted through the play activities and how this progresses over time. The daily evaluations and detailed relevant assessment records on the children's progress are used to ensure there is a close match between the planning and the needs of the children.

- The leader is highly motivated and has a clear commitment to providing quality provision for the children and families of the community. She demonstrates professional expertise in her own work with the children and manages the centre very effectively. She is ably supported by her hard-working assistant.

6. The staff's use of the Education and Training Inspectorate publication 'Together Towards Improvement' has provided a good starting point for self-evaluation. They have identified the outdoor area for development, have reflected constructively on their practice, and have collaborated as a team to introduce and monitor new approaches. There is good evidence that their efforts have improved the children's experiences.

7. At the time of the inspection, a new early years specialist (EYS) had just taken up post. She and the previous EYS have made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The support provided is well focused, in particular the cluster support and the developing work in evaluating the outdoor provision.

8. 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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