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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

Tiddli-winks Playgroup Bangor

Inspected: February 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Tiddli-winks Playgroup
Address:	68 Groomsport Road BANGOR Co Down BT20 5NE
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	21 February 2007
Date of previous inspection:	6 December 2000

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	24	-
• funded by Department of Education	24	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• 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	1	-
• 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	82%	-

* 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	0	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	4
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	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	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	58.3%
Number of written comments:	4

TIDDLI-WINKS PLAYGROUP, BANGOR, CO DOWN, BT20 5NE (4AB-0282)

1. The centre is located in St Columbanus Church Hall on the Groomsport Road in Bangor. The children come mainly from the surrounding 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 response, nearly all of the parents and staff were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision. Any issues raised have been shared with the staff.

3. The centre has a suitable written policy on child protection and the staff are aware of appropriate procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children. The policy is shared with the parents.

4. The pre-school gives some consideration to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. While there are some opportunities for the children to participate in a range of physical activities, not enough attention is given to daily opportunities for energetic physical play.

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

- The positive ethos promotes a settled and purposeful atmosphere. The staff and the children display mutual respect for one another which is reflected in the children's obvious sense of security and good behaviour.
- The staff work hard each day to set up and clear away the equipment and to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment. Good use is made of the children's art work to create colourful displays around the playroom.
- There are friendly relationships and good communication with the parents. The staff use a variety of methods to inform the parents about the educational programme and the work of the centre.
- The smooth organisation of the session ensures that the children have adequate time to explore the range of activities and develop their play.
- There are satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- There is a strong sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff.

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

- The staff need to develop further the approaches to planning to ensure progression in all aspects of the pre-school programme, with particular attention to the planning for daily energetic physical play.

- The staff need to ensure that the quality of the staff's interaction is more consistently of a high standard.

7. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation; this work is at an early stage.

8. 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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