



*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

**Tiny Tots Community Playgroup
Stewartstown, Dungannon**

Inspected: November 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Tiny Tots Community Playgroup
Address:	33 Hillhead Road Stewartstown DUNGANNON BT71 5HY
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	19 November 2007
Date of previous inspection:	13 March 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	25	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
• funded by Department of Education	18	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	4	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• 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	3	-
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	86%	-

* 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	3	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	0

Number of: ***	
Students	1
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
2¾ hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	66.7%
Number of written comments:	7

**TINY TOTS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, STEWARTSTOWN, DUNGANNON,
CO TYRONE, BT71 5HY (5BB-0403)**

1. The centre is situated in mobile accommodation in the grounds of Stewartstown Primary School. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes. A new assistant was appointed in April 2007. The children have access to a recently developed outdoor play 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 and any issues raised have been shared with the staff. Those who responded expressed high levels of satisfaction with the work of the centre.

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 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.

- The centre has a very positive ethos with a clear sense of purpose, and relationships at all levels are good. The staff are caring and supportive and the children show high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They respond well to the adults' expectations and their behaviour is very good.
- The staff have created an attractive and stimulating learning environment, both indoors and in the outside play areas. Good use is made of the resources and the space available to provide interesting areas for play.
- The daily session is very well organised and transitions are managed smoothly. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to promote the children's independence and learning.
- The interactions between the staff and the children are a key strength and they help to promote concentrated, purposeful play. The staff are very effective in stimulating and sustaining the children's interest and motivation.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff are particularly skilful in identifying within their written planning the learning they intend to promote through the play activities.
- The staff work very effectively as a team; roles are clearly identified and responsibilities are shared across all the areas of play.

6. The leader manages the centre very effectively. She is a good role-model for the staff in her work with the children; she is currently undertaking an additional childcare qualification and encourages the ongoing professional development of the staff. A new early years specialist (EYS) has recently been appointed. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialists has important strengths, including the support provided through cluster training. The staff take a reflective approach to their work and have developed some very useful methods of self-evaluation. They have identified appropriate areas for improvement, including the need to link their assessment methods more closely to their planning. The staff should now work with the management group and the EYS to create a development plan for the centre, and begin to gather evidence of improvement in provision and practice.

7. 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 centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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