



*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**

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

#### **Tiny Tots Cross-Community Playgroup Mullymesker, Enniskillen**

**Inspected: October 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Tiny Tots Cross-Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	Mullymesker Skea Arney ENNISKILLEN Co Fermanagh BT92 2AB
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	20 October 2009
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	3 December 2002

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	17	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	13	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	13	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	3	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	1	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• 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	94%	-

\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
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	N/A	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	16
Percentage returned:	38%
Number of written comments:	2

**TINY TOTS CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, MULLYMESKER, ENNISKILLEN,  
CO FERMANAGH, BT92 2AB (2AB-0446)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in a community centre close to the village of Bellanaleck and eight miles from the main town of Enniskillen. Since the last inspection in 2002 the staff have all remained in post. The outdoor provision has been significantly developed to extend the children's play and learning outdoors.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A significant minority (38%) of the parents responded to the questionnaire and two made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire were wholly positive and indicated that the parents regard the pre-school centre highly. The responses from the management group and the staff questionnaires were very positive. The management group commented on the dedication and commitment of the staff and their good team-work to promote the best possible quality pre-school provision. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school centre.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the pre-school centre is outstanding. Relationships at all levels are excellent and the children readily turn to the staff for support during play. The children's work is celebrated and attractively displayed and as a result the children take pride in their art work and are developing positive attitudes to learning.

4. The pre-school centre has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

5. The pre-school centre gives outstanding attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the daily healthy snack and energetic play activities, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The staff and management group have worked hard to provide a bright and stimulating learning environment. The spacious playroom has been organised effectively to include areas of interest which encourage the children to observe, explore and experiment. The resources and play activities are clearly labelled and easily accessible thereby enabling the children to make choices.
- There is a happy, relaxed atmosphere in the playroom and the staff are responsive to the needs of the children as they settle into the rules and routines of the pre-school centre. The children are well-behaved and co-operative; some firm friendships are developing among the children.
- The quality of the staff interaction and involvement with the children is consistently very good and at times, of an outstanding standard. The staff engage the children in purposeful discussion and develop oral language effectively through the use of skilful questioning and the promotion of the children's listening skills. Generally, the children are able to engage in conversations and to talk about their play.

- There are very good opportunities provided for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children are confident and well motivated; they sustain periods of concentrated and productive play. There are particular strengths in the promotion of personal, social and emotional development, early mathematical concepts and learning about the world around us.
- There is a positive team-working approach developed among the dedicated staff. The leader is a good role-model in the playroom and displays commitment to self-evaluation leading to improvement. She is ably-supported by the deputy leader and the assistant member of staff and all work in the best interests of the children.
- There are well-established links with the parents and the community and the pre-school is at the heart of the community. The parents provide valuable funds which considerably extend the provision for the children.

7. The use of self-evaluation to identify, prioritise and implement improvement, particularly in planning for outdoor play and positive behaviour management is having a positive impact in the areas of physical, personal, social and emotional development. The early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The support provided is clearly defined, with a particular focus on the development planning for improvement.

8. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The pre-school centre has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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