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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

**Tiny Tots Pre-School
Toomebridge**

Inspected: January 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Tiny Tots Pre-School
Address:	Pastoral Centre Main Street TOOMEBRIDGE Co Antrim BT41 3NJ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	22 January 2007
Date of previous inspection:	27 March 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	27	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	14	-
• funded by Department of Education	14	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	14	-
• 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	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	90%	-

* 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
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	-	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	-	0

Number of: ***	
Students	1
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
2¾ hours	-	186

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	46.2%
Number of written comments:	0

TINY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3NT (3AB-0371)

1. The centre is situated in a community hall in the village. The children come 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. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision.

3. The pre-school has a positive ethos and appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that all of the staff show a high level of care for the children's welfare and implement the policies and procedures effectively. A few additions are needed to ensure the arrangements are comprehensive, including the need to appoint the deputy designated staff and the management group members with responsibility for child protection.

4. The pre-school centre demonstrates a commitment to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. The children have regular opportunities to participate in some energetic physical play activities.

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

- There is a caring atmosphere in the centre. Relationships are very good at all levels. The staff prepare the playroom carefully and the children enjoy lengthy sessions of play. The children's behaviour is excellent.
- There are instances when the staff use open-ended questioning, to develop the children's language, and extend the children's ideas and thinking. There are useful opportunities for songs and rhymes.
- The curriculum is broad and is providing useful opportunities for learning across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children sustain suitable levels of concentration and motivation in their play.
- There are many good opportunities for the children to develop their fine motor skills and to create interesting collages and representational drawings.
- Satisfactory opportunities are provided to develop mathematical ideas and to investigate in the outdoors.
- The staff are committed to the development of the centre. The leader is an effective administrator and is well-supported by the hard-working staff.

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

- The daily routines and use of the time for learning need to be reviewed in order to improve the children's learning opportunities.
- The staff need to develop further their shared understanding of planning and assessment for learning and make more effective use of the information to meet the children's individual needs and stages of development.

7. Although self-evaluation is at an early stage of development, the staff plan together and are developing effectively a pre-school programme. There is a need to ensure there is a closer match between the activities and the needs and stages of development of the children. Better communication is needed between the management group and the staff. More effective support from the early years specialist is required to enable the staff to effect the necessary changes.

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 more effectively the needs of 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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