



*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

Tober Tinys Community Playgroup Tobermore

Inspected: October 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Tober Tinys Community Playgroup
Address:	Unit 2 Business Centre 6 Desertmartin Road TOBERMORE Co Londonderry BT45 5QY
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	23 October 2007
Date of previous inspection:	13 February 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	15	5
• in their immediate pre-school year	15	0
• funded by Department of Education	15	0
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	4	0
• with a statement of SEN*	0	0
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	5	0
• with English as an additional language	0	0
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	1	0
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	90%	N/A

* 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	1
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	1
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	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
2½ hours	2 hours	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	15
Percentage returned:	86.7%
Number of written comments:	4

**TOBER TINYS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, TOBERMORE,
CO LONDONDERRY, BT45 5QY (3AB-0482)**

1. The centre is located in a business unit on the Desertmartin Road, in Tobermore. The children come from the village and 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 and any issues raised have been shared with the staff. In their responses, nearly all of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision. Some of the parents added written comments which highlighted the positive ethos, and the work of the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is 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. The centre needs to ensure that members from the management committee receive appropriate training on child protection matters.

4. The centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The positive ethos helps to promote a settled, caring atmosphere and good relationships at all levels. The staff have worked hard to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment and make very good use of photographs and the children's art work in displays.
- There are satisfactory opportunities for learning in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. On the day of the inspection, there were particular strengths in the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, the enjoyable story and singing sessions, the range of experiences offered in the outdoors and the opportunities provided for the children to express their ideas creatively.
- The staff have worked hard to establish a smooth flow to the organisation of the day. There is a balanced approach given to free play and group activities.
- The staff support one another during the session and are developing a team approach to their work. The staff are closely involved in the children's play and their interactions in response to the children's needs are of a high quality.
- The children are friendly and welcoming. They have the confidence to ask the staff for help and support and respond to the staff's high expectations of good behaviour.

- The communication with the parents is very good. Valuable and supportive links have been established with the local primary schools.

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

- The planning needs to be developed further to build more clearly on the children's own ideas and identify challenge and progression in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The staff need to develop further their methods of assessing the children's progress to ensure that the information gathered is used more effectively to meet the individual needs of the children.

7. The staff have started to implement some useful methods of self-evaluation. Appropriate areas have been identified for development and progress has been made in enhancing the quality of the learning environment both indoors and outdoors, reorganising the daily routine, updating the centre's policies and procedures and improving the display of the children's work.

8. At the time of the inspection the centre had experienced three different early years specialists (EYS) to support their work within a period of six months. The staff had continued to develop the provision within the centre throughout these disruptions. The staff with the support from the centre's EYS and the management committee should now be better placed to continue the developmental work required.

9. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most areas of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address. The pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement will be followed-up by monitoring visits, conducted by the District Inspector.

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