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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**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**

### **Treehouse Kindergarten Omagh**

**Inspected: May 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Treehouse Kindergarten
<b>Address:</b>	18 Woodbank Road OMAGH Co Tyrone BT79 0NB
<b>Management Type:</b>	Private

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	14 May 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	8 October 2001

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	21	-
• funded by Department of Education	21	-
• 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	1	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	1	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	89%	-

\* Special Educational Needs

\*\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
Staff, including leader	4	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	4	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	0

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	0
Trainees	0

\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

## 3. Details of Sessions

<b>Duration of morning session</b>	<b>Duration of afternoon session</b>	<b>Number of days open in previous year</b>
2½ hours	-	190

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	21
Number returned:	28.6%
Number of written comments:	2

## **TREEHOUSE KINDERGARTEN, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 0NB (2CA-0030)**

1. The pre-school is situated in the rural area of Arvalee outside Omagh. It is accommodated in purpose-built day care premises. Since the last inspection, there have been a number of staffing changes including a new leader in the pre-school.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. Those who responded generally expressed their satisfaction with the provision. A number of parents were less satisfied with the presentation of the building.

3. 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 pre-school centre demonstrates a commitment to promoting healthy eating habits among the children. Good opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a wide range of physical activities.

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

- There is a friendly, caring atmosphere based on good relationships between the staff and the children.
- The recently developed outdoor area provides a stimulating learning environment which the children clearly enjoy.
- The daily timetable is organised to provide a good balance between extended periods of free play and appropriate group activities including an enjoyable group story.
- There are many examples of effective interaction when the staff promote the children's language and thinking.
- The staff have worked hard to develop their written planning to provide a broad and balanced pre-school programme.
- The staff provide a wide range of activities which offer satisfactory opportunities for learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. On the day of the inspection, particular strengths included the provision of opportunities for physical play, the effective promotion of the children's oral language and the development of early mathematical language and ideas.
- The pre-school leader is enthusiastic and provides a good role-model in her own work with the children. She fosters a strong sense of team-work 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 review and implement more consistently their behaviour management policy to promote settled, safe and concentrated play throughout the session.
- The staff need to develop a more systematic and comprehensive method of assessing and recording the children's progress and link this information more closely to the planning to identify the support to be given to meet children's additional needs.

7. The centre is in the early stage of developing its approach to self-evaluation. There is no written development plan. The centre's early years specialist needs to give more focused support and set specific targets to help the staff bring about the necessary improvements.

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.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS**

- Staff did not notice a child climb on to the playhouse roof during outside play.

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