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*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

Woodlands Adventure Playgroup Augher

Inspected: April 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Woodlands Adventure Playgroup
Address:	32B Aughadarragh Road AUGHER Co Tyrone BT77 0ET
Management Type:	Voluntary Committee

Date of inspection:	24 April 2007
Date of previous inspection:	5 December 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	13	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	8	-
• funded by Department of Education	8	-
• 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	0	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	95%	-

* 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	2	1
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainee	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
3 hours	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	13
Percentage returned:	61.5%
Number of written comments:	3

**WOODLANDS ADVENTURE PLAYGROUP, AUGHER, CO TYRONE, BT77 0ET
(5AB-0418)**

1. The centre is situated on the outskirts of Augher town. Since the last inspection, there has been a complete change of staff. The children come mainly 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. Most of the responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision; the findings and the positive written comments, made by some of the parents, have been shared with the staff and the management group. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection.

3. The centre has a written policy for child protection. The policy needs to be updated urgently in order to comply with the Department of Education Circulars and guidance.

4. The centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle among the children. There are regular opportunities for the children to engage in a range of appropriate energetic physical activities and healthy eating habits are promoted.

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

- The very positive ethos helps to promote the children's confidence, self-esteem and good behaviour. The centre is attractively presented and good use is made of topical displays, relevant posters, photographs and examples of the children's art work to enhance areas of play. Relationships between the staff and the children are very good.
- The staff have developed valuable links with the parents and use a range of methods to keep them informed about the life of the centre.
- The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is consistently of a high standard and promotes successfully the children's concentrated and purposeful play.
- There are satisfactory or good learning opportunities in most aspects of the pre-school curriculum; the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and language development are particular strengths.
- The early part of the session is well-organised and provides a suitable period of uninterrupted play during which the children have adequate time to make choices and to explore freely the full range of activities. Appropriate time is given to story and physical play sessions.
- The staff are hard-working, dedicated and work well as a team.

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

- The staff need to urgently review and update the child protection policy and procedures and share the information with the parents.
- More appropriate opportunities are needed for the staff to work together to develop the planning and assessment methods further in order to ensure that the activities progress appropriately throughout the year and that the information gathered about the children's progress is linked to the planning.
- The staff need to review the tidy-up routine and circle time to ensure that all the time is used more effectively to promote learning.

7. The staff have started to implement some useful methods of self-evaluation and have plans to develop this aspect of their work further with the help of the centre's early years specialist.

8. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational 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.

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