

eti

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

Castlewellan Community Playgroup Co Down

Inspected: November 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Castlewellan Community Playgroup
Address:	Hillyard House Castle Avenue CASTLEWELLAN Co Down BT31 9DX
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	19 November 2007
Date of previous inspection:	20 November 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	32	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	17	-
• funded by Department of Education	12	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• 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	1	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	12	-
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	96%	-

* 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	0	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

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
3 hours	N/A	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	32
Percentage returned:	40.6%
Number of written comments:	4

**CASTLEWELLAN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT31 9DX
(4AB-0435)**

1. The centre is situated in Hillyard House, Castlewellan. Since the last inspection there have been significant staff changes; the leader is recently appointed.

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. A few parents included written comments praising the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is very 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.

4. The pre-school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, which include the promotion of a healthy break. There is a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily. The areas for improvement identified include the need to develop the programme for energetic physical play in order to promote more fully the children's well-being.

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

- The staff are caring and friendly and there are good relationships between the staff and the children.
- There are satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school programme.
- The staff make good efforts to identify and meet the needs of those children who require additional support with aspects of their learning.
- There is a developing sense of team-spirit among the hard-working staff; they co-operate effectively in the day-to-day running of the centre.

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

- The staff need to develop their planning and assessment to ensure that the learning potential of all the activities is exploited more fully, that the experiences provided for the children become steadily more challenging over the year, and that the children's differing needs are met.
- The staff need to ensure that the quality of their interaction with the children promotes learning more effectively.
- The staff should review the organisation of the latter part of the day in order to ensure that all the available time is used to promote learning.

7. The staff are at an early stage of developing methods of self-evaluation. Over recent years, the group has experienced a number of changes in its early years specialist (EYS) support. The contribution made by the centre's EYS has a few strengths in developing the centre's work. The staff require more focused and regular support from their EYS in order to bring about the necessary improvements outlined in the inspection report.

8. The pre-school has a few strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement, which need to be addressed promptly if the centre is 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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.