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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

Craigbrack Pre-School Centre
Eglinton

Inspected: January 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Craigbrack Pre-school Centre
Address:	75 Craigbrack Road EGLINTON Co Londonderry BT47 3BE
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	13 January 2009
Date of previous inspection:	9 March 2004

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	17	12
• in their immediate pre-school year	17	0
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	17	0
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	0
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	0
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	2	0
• with English as an additional language	0	0
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	0
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	95%	0

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	3	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	3	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: **	
Students	0
Trainees	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
2½ hours	2½ hours	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	54.2%
Number of written comments:	3

**CRAIGBRACK PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, EGLINTON, CO LONDONDERRY,
BT47 3BE (2BB-0050)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in a mobile within the grounds of Craigbrack Primary School and is approximately three miles from Eglinton village. The leader and staff have been working together in the playgroup for approximately nine years.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the staff and the management committee to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and three made additional written comments. Those who responded indicated a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision and they appreciate:

- that their children feel safe and secure;
- learning takes place through a range of activities;
- they are provided with regular information about planned activities; and
- the centre is well thought of in the community.

The responses from the management committee and staff were also positive. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection process and any issues raised have been shared with the leader and the management committee.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the centre is very good. Among the strengths are the well-settled, happy and confident children and the very good working relationships at all levels.

4. The centre has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments but the following minor areas need to be addressed:

- the provision of more detailed information on toileting and changing procedures;
- a review of the risk assessment process for trips; and
- a review of the procedures and associated flowchart for reporting a child protection incident.

5. The centre gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The centre has, for example, been awarded the Smart Snack Award and provides a healthy buffet snack. The centre recognises the need to review the provision for outdoor physical activity in order to provide a more consistent and challenging learning experience for the children.

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

- the well-settled, well-behaved and confident children;
- the emphasis placed on the development and application of the children's language and early mathematical skills, to good effect;
- the broad and balanced curriculum which provides good opportunities for the children to learn in a range of stimulating and engaging activities;
- the consistently good quality of the staff interactions with the children;
- the good attention given to the development of the children's personal, social and emotional needs; and
- the commitment and hard work of the leader and the staff who demonstrate a strong sense of team-work.

7. The inspection identified an area for improvement as follows:

- there is a need to further develop the arrangements for planning, observation and assessment to ensure challenge and progression in learning for all of the children.

8. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although the work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in reviewing the provision for learning.

9. The contribution made by the early years specialist (EYS) has strengths, including regular planned meetings with the centre leader, the development of transition arrangements from the pre-school to the primary school and the good start made to self-evaluation. However, a few important areas of the centre's work have been identified for improvement and it will be important that staff work closely with the EYS in order to address the key areas for improvement.

10. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the centre is good. The centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the centre's progress on the areas for improvement.

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