

eti

*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

Drumaness Cross-Community Playgroup Ballynahinch

Inspected: November 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Drumaness Cross-Community Playgroup
Address:	9A Drumsnade Road Drumaness BALLYNAHINCH Co Down BT24 8NG
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	17 November 2008
Date of previous inspection:	6 February 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	16	15
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	7
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	16	6
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	16	6
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	0
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	0	1
• with English as an additional language	0	0
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	22	0
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	82%	0

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	1	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	1	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	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	2½ hours	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	22
Percentage returned:	50%
Number of written comments:	7

**DRUMANESS CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, BALLYNAHINCH,
CO DOWN, BT24 8NG (4BB-0436)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated in mobile accommodation in the grounds of Christ the King Primary School, on the Drumsnade Road in Drumaness. Most of the children who attend the centre come from the village of Drumaness and the surrounding rural area. The centre operates morning and afternoon sessions.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Eleven parents responded to the questionnaire and seven made additional written comments. The responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and they appreciate:

- the helpful staff;
- the happy, friendly atmosphere; and
- being kept up-to-date on their child's progress.

The responses from the management group and the staff were also positive and supportive of the work of the centre. All of the responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is good. The staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare and development of the children. There is a positive ethos based on the very good working relationships between the staff and children.

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

- to update the training in child protection to include all of the staff, and a member of the management committee;
- review the documentation used for the purposes of risk assessment for trips; and
- ensure parents are fully aware of, and signed up to, all of the necessary pre-school policies and procedures.

5. The centre gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- the learning environment is bright and well-organised, with attractive and colourful displays that celebrate the children's work;

- the daily timetable is well-organised to provide a good balance of free play and adult-led activities. The routines are unobtrusive and used appropriately to provide choice and promote the children's independence;
- during the inspection, there were many good and very good examples of skilful interaction by the staff which extended the children's language and thinking skills;
- there are good opportunities for the children to learn in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths of the programme are the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, language, and early mathematical concepts;
- the planning and assessment methods provide helpful guidance for the staff's interaction. The information from the observation of the children's activities and interactions is used well, and increasingly, to plan activities to meet their individual interests and needs; and
- the centre is developing useful links with the local primary school.

7. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following is the most important area that needs attention.

- To develop further the programme for physical play and to improve the associated resources.

8. The staff work well as a team and contribute effectively to the good quality of the provision. The leader demonstrates a strong commitment to reviewing and developing the work of the centre; the staff team has identified appropriately the need for further improvement in the outdoor physical play provision.

9. The centre has quite recently, and appropriately, re-engaged with support from an early years specialist (EYS). It will be important that staff build upon this and work closely with the EYS in order to address the area for improvement identified during the inspection.

10. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school centre is good. The pre-school 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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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.