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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

**Dungiven Community Playgroup
Co Londonderry**

Inspected: February 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Dungiven Community Pre-school Playgroup
Address:	42A Mitchel Park DUNGIVEN Co Londonderry BT47 4LW
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	23 February 2009
Date of previous inspection:	25 November 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	16	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	12	-
• funded by Department of Education	12	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	12	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	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	76.15%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	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	N/A	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	12
Percentage returned:	83%
Number of written comments:	4

**DUNGIVEN COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, CO LONDONDERRY,
BT47 4LW (2AB-0057)**

1. Dungiven Community Pre-school Playgroup is situated close to the centre of the town. The leader and assistant have worked together in the centre for eight years. There are currently 16 children attending the playgroup; 12 children are full-time and in their pre-school year.

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. Most of the parents responded to the questionnaire and four parents made additional comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicated that the parents regard the centre highly and they appreciate:

- the bright and attractive premises;
- the range of activities available;
- the regular information provided about planned activities; and
- the caring and safe environment.

The responses from the staff were entirely positive; the management group responses highlighted the spirit of team-work within the centre and their involvement in the centre's development planning process.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the centre is very good. Among the strengths are the very good working relationships at all levels, the care and support for the children provided by the staff and the effective links with external agencies and organisations in supporting the children's learning.

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 area needs to be addressed:

- to further update the child protection and pastoral care policies in consultation with parents, particularly in relation to the adoption of a written code of conduct for the staff.

5. The centre gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the children are provided with a daily healthy snack and the staff use the opportunity to engage the children in purposeful learning opportunities. The recently refurbished outdoor area provides the children with a stimulating and challenging area for physical play.

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

- the centre provides a secure, welcoming and stimulating environment for the children; the atmosphere is settled and relaxed. The playroom is effectively organised to provide spacious areas where the children are engaged for periods of extended concentrated play. The children's individual work is purposefully displayed and annotated;
- the children's learning is supported and appropriately developed by the very good quality of staff interactions. The children respond thoughtfully to effective questioning and display confidence and enthusiasm when communicating with the staff, visitors and peers;
- the children are provided with opportunities to learn across all areas of the curriculum; in particular the children's development of language, mathematical awareness and creative skills are effectively promoted, to good effect, through a range of activities. The children also have a developing awareness of the immediate and extended world around them, and personal, social and emotional skills are effectively encouraged and enhanced through the planned programme;
- the High/Scope method of planning and assessment is used effectively to guide the staff in the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum which is based on the children's own interests and various stages of development;
- the staff and management group have developed an effective process of self-evaluation leading to improvement. The current development plan and associated action plans effectively and strategically guide the work of the staff and management in the development of the pre-school provision; and
- the leader, who is dedicated and hard-working, is ably supported by the committed and enthusiastic assistant; the management group provide very good support and guidance for the staff and working relationships at all levels are very good.

7. The early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in the centre. The support provided is well focused and includes the review of planning and assessment strategies, the development of self-evaluation leading to improvement, the ongoing review of the centre's policies and procedures and cluster support for staff.

8. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this centre is very good. The centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self improvement.

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