

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

Forever Friends Cross-Community Playgroup Coalisland

Inspected: November 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Forever Friends Cross-Community Playgroup
Address:	Gortgonis Citizen's Centre 2 Gortgonis Road COALISLAND Co Tyrone BT71 4JJ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	14 November 2007
Date of previous inspection:	21 February 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	27	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	21	-
• funded by Department of Education	21	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	9	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	2	-
• with English as an additional language	5	-
• 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	81%	-

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

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
2 ³ / ₄ hours	-	189

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	21
Percentage returned:	57%
Number of written comments:	1

FOREVER FRIENDS CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, COALISLAND, CO TYRONE, BT71 4JJ (5AB-0397)

1. The centre is situated in dedicated accommodation within Gortgonis Citizen's Centre. The Citizen's Centre was rebuilt four years ago and is owned and maintained by Dungannon District Council. Since the last inspection, there have also been several staffing changes. A new leader was appointed and took up post in September 2003. Two new assistants have been 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. Those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with the work of the centre. One parent made specific reference to the good efforts made by the centre to integrate children from a range of cultural backgrounds.

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 centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The centre has a very positive ethos with a clear sense of purpose, and relationships at all levels are good. The staff are caring and supportive and the children show high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They respond well to the adults' expectations and their behaviour is very good.
- The staff have created a very attractive and stimulating learning environment. Good use is made of all the space available to provide interesting areas for play. The daily session is well organised. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to promote the children's independence. The quality of the accommodation and the range of resources is very good.
- The interactions between the staff and the children are a key strength and they help to promote concentrated, purposeful play. The staff are very effective in stimulating and sustaining the children's interest and motivation. Sensitive and skilful support is provided for those children who require additional support.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff place much emphasis on the promotion of the children's language development across all areas of the curriculum. They value the children's own creative ideas and encourage their autonomy and decision-making skills. Good use is made of the digital camera and the computer to support children's thinking and understanding.

- Good pastoral links have been established with the local schools to which the children transfer. The staff have also benefited from closer working relationships with other early years professionals, particularly through their involvement in the local SureStart programme.
- The staff team work well together and many improvements have been made in the centre's provision and practice since the last inspection.

6. The leader manages the centre very effectively and there is a strong sense of team-spirit among the staff. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has important strengths, including the feedback given on aspects of practice and the training provided through cluster support. The staff are currently undertaking training in the HighScope programme. They have started to implement some useful approaches to self-evaluation and have identified appropriate areas for improvement. These include the development of the outdoor play area and the centre's programme for physical play. The staff should now work with the management group and the EYS to create a development plan for the centre, with action plans to take these improvements forward.

7. The quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is very good. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

© 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.