

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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

Glencraig Integrated Playgroup Holywood

Inspected: November 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Glencraig Integrated Playgroup
Address:	32 Seahill Road HOLYWOOD Co Down BT18 0DJ
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	30 November 2009
Date of previous inspection:	15 October 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	26	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	26	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	3	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	1	-
• 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	85%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	5
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	5
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
3 hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	53.8%
Number of written comments:	7

**GLENCRAIG INTEGRATED PLAYGROUP, HOLYWOOD, CO DOWN, BT18 0DJ
(4AB-0175)**

1. The pre-school centre is situated on the Seahill Road in Holywood. Since the last inspection one new member of staff was appointed and the playgroup moved into new purpose built accommodation in the grounds of Glencraig Integrated Primary School. There are currently 26 children funded by the Department of Education (DE) attending the playgroup.

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. A majority of the 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 the vast majority of them appreciate the helpful, caring and supportive staff. The responses from the staff were very positive; the returns from the management group were mainly positive and supportive of the work of the playgroup. 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 very good. The staff work well as a team and demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children. The relationships at all levels are very good and there are close links with the parents, local schools and appropriate support agencies.

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

- to update the training in child protection to include all of the staff; and
- to review the playgroup's current documentation to ensure that it reflects more accurately the playgroup's practice and procedures for dealing with child protection matters.

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

6. The main strengths within the playgroup's educational and pastoral provision.

6.1 The friendly, caring ethos in the playgroup promotes the children's confidence, self-esteem and good behaviour. The children are well settled, they co-operate well with each other; they respond well to the staff's expectations and their behaviour is very good. A majority of the children's are able to make independent choices of activity and to sustain high levels of concentration in their play.

6.2 The staff have created a bright and attractive learning environment and make very good use of the space available to create clearly defined areas of play for the children. The staff spend sustained periods with groups and individuals, promoting the children's language and thinking and participating as role-models in the play. The quality of the staff's involvement with the children is consistently of a high standard.

6.3 The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable allows the day to flow smoothly and provides a balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The necessary routines are managed unobtrusively and used effectively to promote learning.

6.4 There are good learning opportunities in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's early mathematical language and skills are particular strengths of the programme; the children are beginning to count and recognise colour and shape as an integral part of their play.

6.5 The playgroup is effectively managed. The leader is a good role-model and is effective in promoting a strong team-spirit among the hard-working staff. Since the last inspection, all of the staff have attended a wide range of training and development courses; there is evidence that the training is having a positive impact on the overall quality of the centre's provision.

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

- During small group sessions, the staff's involvement with the children is too narrowly focused on reinforcing knowledge, and limits the development of the children's own ideas. The staff need to develop greater skill in recognising the potential of every opportunity to promote more fully the children's language, learning and thinking skills.
- The current strategies for monitoring the children identified as having special educational needs are not sufficiently based on an assessment of the children's differing needs.

8. The staff implement a few useful methods of self-evaluation. To date progress has been made in reviewing a few aspects of the play programme. The staff report that the centre's early years specialist provides useful support and guidance for the playgroup.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

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 ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

