

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Grove Community Playgroup,
Lisburn

Report of an Inspection
in February 2010

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Grove Community Playgroup
Address:	Grove Activity Centre 15 Ballinderry Park LISBURN BT28 1ST
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	3 February 2010
Date of previous inspection:	19 March 2000

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	23	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	10	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	3	-
• with English as an additional language	3	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	1	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	80%	-

* 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	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	2

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	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	20
Percentage returned:	50%
Number of written comments:	2

GROVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, LISBURN, BT28 1ST (4AB-0145)

1. Grove Community Playgroup is accommodated in the Grove Activity Centre, Lisburn. Most of the children who attend the playgroup come from the surrounding area. At the time of the inspection, a new playgroup leader had been in post for three months.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. The majority of the responses from the parents, management committee and the staff were wholly positive. The responses refer to the value of the pre-school to the local community by providing good opportunities for the children to benefit from a positive, early educational experience. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school.

3 The provision for pastoral care within the playgroup is very good. Among the strengths are the very good working relationships between the staff and the children, the consistent approach applied by all of the staff in promoting positive behaviour, and the welcoming atmosphere that permeates throughout the playgroup.

4. The playgroup has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department. The management committee need to update their child protection training.

5. The playgroup gives good attention to promoting healthy eating, for example, fruit is provided on a daily basis and the children have access to drinking water throughout the session. The children benefit from the good opportunities for indoor physical play activities on a frequent and regular basis.

6. The majority of the children make independent choices and maintain sustained periods of concentrated play and engage in collaborative and imaginative role-play. The children are able to use appropriate social language and engage in sustained conversations based on their personal experiences and prior learning. They are developing good listening skills and enjoyment of reading through the staff's modelling of reading on request and as part of the story time sessions. There are many examples of good quality and extended interaction between the staff and the children.

7. The playgroup's educational programme provides satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. The particular strengths, observed during the inspection, include the attention given to promoting the children's personal, social and emotional development, the children's interest in role-play, early-writing and early-mathematical ideas and concepts. The children are counting informally, recognising shape and using comparative language as an integral part of their play. The curriculum should be developed further to foster and extend the children's creativity and imagination.

8. The daily timetable includes a good period of extended play and provides opportunities for story and small group sessions.

9 The staff are making satisfactory progress in planning and evaluating a broad pre-school programme and in assessing the children's progress. They are aware of, and provide support for, those children who require adult help to improve their play sessions and develop their language, communication and social skills. The staff need to develop further the planning to ensure that there is sufficient challenge and progression for all children in the pre-school programme.

10. The leader is a good role-model and is effective in promoting a strong team-spirit among the dedicated staff. They have made necessary and appropriate improvements in recent months to the learning environment and to the quality of the pre-school learning experiences. The early years specialist (EYS) provides good support and guidance that is valued by the staff. The management committee, the staff and the EYS need to continue to work together to build on this initial work and continue to raise standards through a rigorous and systematic approach to self-evaluation.

11. The key strengths in this playgroup include:

- the caring support provided by the staff, which helps the children settle and which promotes their confidence and independence in play;
- the good efforts made by the staff to improve the layout of the playroom and ensure a broad range of activities for the children;
- the quality of the children's oral language and listening skills; and
- the management of the new leader and the developing team-approach to curricular development.

12. The priority identified for further development includes the need:

- to develop further the planning and assessment methods to ensure that there is progression and challenge in the pre-school programme, throughout the year, in order to meet the children's individual needs.

13 In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this playgroup is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement in the children's achievements which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the playgroup's progress in addressing the area for improvement.

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