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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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**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

Humpty Dumpty Playschool Carrickfergus

Inspected: April 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Humpty Dumpty Playschool
Address:	Downshire School Downshire Road CARRICKFERGUS Co Antrim BT38 7DA
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	17 April 2008
Date of previous inspection:	5 October 2000

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	25	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	15	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	15	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	-
• 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:		
• percentage attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	82%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

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

Number of: **	
Students	2
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	-	183

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	25
Percentage returned:	56%
Number of written comments:	10

**HUMPTY DUMPTY PLAYSCHOOL, CARRICKFERGUS, CO ANTRIM, BT38 7DA
(3BB-0267)**

1. The centre is situated in a mobile classroom within the grounds of Downshire School. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes and the centre has moved to new premises. The majority of the children come from the immediate surrounding area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the provision. Many parents included written comments praising the work of the staff. The small number of issues raised have been shared with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has important strengths. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the policies and procedures are implemented consistently by the staff. Some minor additions are needed to the policies for behaviour management and special educational needs to ensure they are comprehensive.

4. The centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, with a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily and be physically active.

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

- There is a positive ethos based on caring and supportive relationships between the staff and the children.
- The staff demonstrate a high level of skill in promoting a wide range of language and learning as they interact with the children during the activities.
- The written planning ensures the programme is broad and balanced and is implemented effectively by the staff.
- The broad range of activities provides learning opportunities for the children in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. On the day of the inspection, particular strengths included the development of the children's language, the promotion of early mathematical ideas and concepts, an interest in the world around us and their personal development.
- The leader has developed the provision in the pre-school centre with vision and commitment. She is a good role-model in her own work with the children and fosters a strong sense of team-work among the hard-working staff.

6. The inspection identified an area for improvement.

- The staff need to continue to develop the assessment methods to ensure they are more systematic and the actions required to support individual children are more specific.

7. The staff are reflective in their own practice; they regularly evaluate aspects of their work. There is evidence of continuous improvement, such as the work undertaken to relocate and develop the new premises. The development plan should be extended to include the findings from this inspection.

8. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has a few strengths in developing the pre-school centre's work. There have been a number of changes in the support arrangements in recent months. The staff require more specific support from their EYS in order to bring about the necessary improvement.

9. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address.

The pre-school's progress on the areas for improvement will be followed-up by monitoring visits, conducted by the District Inspector.

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