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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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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

**Keady Community Playgroup
Co Armagh**

Inspected: February 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Keady Community Playgroup
Address:	The 'Den in the Glen' Glen Road KEADY Co Armagh BT60 3UA
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	28 February 2008
Date of previous inspection:	11 February 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education	26	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	4	-
• with a statement of special educational needs*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	2	-
• with English as an additional language	2	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	7	-
Attendance:		-
• percentage attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	93.9%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

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

Number of: **	
Students	1
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	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	26
Percentage returned:	38.5%
Number of written comments:	4

KEADY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO ARMAGH, BT60 3UA (5AB-0405)

1. The centre is located in a purpose-built mobile close to the centre of Keady village. The staff operate a HighScope programme.

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. In their response to the inspection questionnaire, almost all of the parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision. Some of the parents added written comments and these were discussed with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has a few strengths. Although some appropriate practice is in place, there are important areas for improvement which require prompt action. The pre-school centre's policies and procedures for child protection need to be reviewed and improved. The District Inspector will return to the centre within a six-week period to ensure that these important issues are addressed appropriately.

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

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

- The friendly, caring ethos promotes the children's confidence and self-esteem. The well organised and attractively presented environment helps to foster a settled climate for learning where the children's play is both purposeful and productive. Relationships at all levels are very good.
- The staff interact with the children in a sensitive and supportive manner and help to promote the children's sustained interest in the play activities and routines.
- There are satisfactory and at times good opportunities for learning in most aspects of the pre-school curriculum; the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of the children's language are particular strengths.
- The careful organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The snack routine is used effectively to promote the children's independence and learning.
- The staff work well as a team and demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and the development of the centre.

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

- The staff need to develop the planning further to ensure that the learning to be promoted for all areas of the programme is identified more clearly.
- Develop further the assessment methods to ensure a more comprehensive record of the children's progress in all aspects of their development is built up over the year.

7. The staff have a development plan and have made a useful start in developing and implementing methods of self-evaluation to bring about improvements in the provision.

8. Due to financial constraints the centre was unable to employ the services of an early years specialist (EYS) for the period March 2007 to February 2008. This situation has now changed and the centre has very recently appointed an EYS to assist the staff in their work.

9. In the areas inspected, the centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Currently there is uninhibited access between the playroom and the kitchen area. This situation needs to be addressed urgently to avoid the risk of an accident.

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