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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

**Kilkeel Playgroup
Co Down**

Inspected: February 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Kilkeel Playgroup
Address:	Kilkeel Leisure Centre Mourne Esplanade KILKEEL Co Down BT34 4DB
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	19 February 2008
Date of previous inspection:	10 June 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	13	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	13	-
• 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	1	-
• 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	95%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	2
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	2

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	-	189

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	20
Percentage returned:	65%
Number of written comments:	3

KILKEEL PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT34 4DB (5AB-0400)

1. The centre is located in a room within Kilkeel Leisure Centre and has its own separate outdoor play area.

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, the parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the centre's provision. The written comments made were shared with the staff and the Chairperson of the management committee.

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 programme for the promotion of health and well-being has a few strengths in aspects of the provision. There is a need to review the arrangements for physical play to ensure a more progressively challenging and energetic programme is provided for all of the children.

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

- The friendly, caring ethos promotes the children's confidence, self-esteem and good behaviour. Relationships at all levels are very good.
- The staff are attentive to the individual needs of the children and are supportive in helping them to develop sustained interest in the play activities.
- The staff have designed appropriate methods for assessing the children's progress and development.
- There are satisfactory 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 mathematical awareness are particular strengths.
- The lengthy period of uninterrupted play, during the early part of the session, 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.

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

- The staff need to develop further the method of planning to ensure that the learning to be promoted, for all areas of play, is identified clearly and is used to guide the staff more effectively in their work with the children.

- Review the organisation of the latter part of the day to ensure that all the time is used effectively to promote learning.

7. The staff are at a very early stage in the process of self-evaluation.

8. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has important strengths. The staff, with the continued support from the centre's EYS, are well placed to continue the developmental work required.

9. The pre-school 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.

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