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*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**

**Killyman Community Playgroup  
Dungannon**

**Inspected: November 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Killyman Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	Griffith Hall 43 Trewmount Road Killyman DUNGANNON Co Tyrone BT71 6RL
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	10 November 2009
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	21 November 2002

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	16	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education	16	-
• 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	0	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	84%	-

\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
Staff, including leader	0	4
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	4
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	0
Trainees	0

\*\* Total placements since September of current year

## 3. Details of Sessions

<b>Duration of morning session</b>	<b>Duration of afternoon session</b>	<b>Number of days open in previous year</b>
3 hours	0	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	16
Percentage returned:	69%
Number of written comments:	5

**KILLYMAN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT71 6RL  
(5AB-0419)**

1. Killyman Community Playgroup is situated in Griffith Hall on the Trewmount Road, Dungannon. Since the last inspection two new assistants have been appointed.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority of the parents (69%) responded to the questionnaire and five made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicated that all of the parents hold the playgroup in high regard; they praised the staff for their promotion of healthy eating and for the care and attention they show to all of the children. They also appreciated being kept well informed of how they can support their children's learning. The responses from the management group and the staff questionnaires were very positive. The management group report that the staff are kind, understanding and helpful to both parents and children. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school centre.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the playgroup is very good. There is a welcoming, caring ethos in the centre and working relationships at all levels are very good.

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

- the flowchart outlining the procedures for reporting concerns in relation to child protection needs to be included in the child protection policy and to be displayed for the parents; and
- appropriate training needs to be provided for the recently appointed management committee member with designated responsibility for child protection.

5. The playgroup gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The effective healthy break policy and the regular opportunities for energetic play encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

**6. The main strengths within the playgroup's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.**

- There is a caring, supportive ethos in the playgroup which effectively promotes the children's independence and self-esteem. The children make conscious choices about the resources they use and are beginning to take responsibility for tidying the play areas.
- The children are very well-behaved. They were well settled for the stage in the year at which the inspection occurred and there were many examples of sustained, purposeful play.

- The daily timetable is generally well organised and provides a good balance between extended periods of free play and adult-led activities; the transitions between activities are managed smoothly and the children are developing an understanding of turn taking and the need for safe movement within the playgroup.
- There are good to very good opportunities provided for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. The particular strengths of the programme are the effective use of authentic materials to stimulate the children's interest and the very good use of music to develop the children's listening skills and sense of rhythm.
- The effective interaction by all of the staff, building on the children's interests, is helping to extend and develop their language. The children talk confidently and articulately about their play experiences.
- There is strong team-work at all levels within the playgroup; the staff work together effectively to create a stimulating, well organised learning environment and to make the most effective use of the accommodation available to them; they are well supported by the parents and management committee.

**7. The inspection identified the following area for improvement:**

- the development of a more strategic approach to self-evaluation to inform the identification of priorities for the continued development of the playgroup.

8. The staff have begun to develop some methods of self-evaluation and have identified a few appropriate priorities for development. The contribution made by the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has important strengths including the review of the playroom layout to facilitate easy access to the resources by the children and the development of the medium-term planning. The staff, with the continued support from the playgroup's EYS, are well placed to continue to develop and improve their work.

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 provision. The inspection has identified an area 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.

**ACCOMMODATION**

- The outdoor play area is too small to allow for unstructured, energetic play. The management committee is actively seeking additional outdoor space for the centre. The Education and Training Inspectorate endorse this as a key priority for the improved provision for the children.

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