

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Rainbow Community  
Playgroup, Londonderry

Report of an Inspection  
in April 2010

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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Rainbow Community Playgroup
<b>Address:</b>	104 Bracken Park Galliagh LONDONDERRY BT48 8AZ
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	22 April 2010
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	20 October 2003

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	24	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	13	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	13	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	10	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	4	-
• 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	85%	-

\* 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	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	1
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	-	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	24
Percentage returned:	20.8%
Number of written comments:	2

**RAINBOW COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, GALLIAGH, LONDONDERRY, BT48 8AZ  
(2AB-0043)**

1. Rainbow Community Playgroup is accommodated in the Rainbow Child and Family Centre. The playgroup shares the use of the playroom with an after-schools club, which meets every afternoon. Since the last inspection, two new assistants have been appointed and the outdoor area has been developed further. Just under 50% of the children will have two years in a pre-school setting.

2. In the areas inspected, the quality of education and pastoral care provided by this pre-school centre is satisfactory.

**CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

3. There is a very wide range in the age and stage of development of the children attending the group. This presents challenges which have had a negative impact on some of the achievement and standards attained by the children in their immediate pre-school year.

4. The children make independent choices and decisions and can attend to their own personal care. The children are generally well-settled and most can engage in co-operative play; many, however, remain unduly dependent on the adults. A few children are beginning to make early representations in their art work and during the inspection there was sustained collaborative play by small groups of children at the large construction area. The children use a wide range of tools and equipment with confidence; at times, however, children were observed during the inspection not taking sufficient care of their environment or their play resources.

5. Most of the children enjoy talking with the adults particularly during snack time and in smaller groups. The children enjoy small group stories with the staff and informal music making. Overall the children's language and listening skills need to be supported and developed more consistently through higher level interactions with the staff, daily group stories for all children and more opportunities to develop an interest in mark making and print.

**THE PROVISION FOR LEARNING**

6. The pre-school has an attractive learning environment both indoors and outdoors, with a range of appropriate resources. This could be enhanced further with interest areas to support investigation and materials to support further opportunities for mark making. The daily routine offers an extended period of free play both indoors and outdoors. The snack time is used effectively to promote the children's independence and social skills. The staff support the children's own ideas and in the best practice extend their thinking and learning. However, more needs to be done to ensure that the quality of the staff interactions are of a more consistently high level to promote all aspects of the children's learning and to promote safe play, and care of equipment. There are effective links with the parents, schools and other support agencies. The opportunity for the children to make group visits to places of interest further enhances the children's learning experiences.

7. The staff have worked hard to develop their written planning and assessment methods. The planning gives a useful overview of the learning to be promoted in all areas of the curriculum and offers the children a wide range of interesting experiences through the year. This planning should be developed further to ensure sufficient account is taken of the

needs of the different age groups of children, and to provide a progressively challenging programme in all areas of learning.

8. The pre-school 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 staff need to implement their behaviour management policy more consistently in order to promote safe play outdoors and care of equipment;
- the written reporting procedures for child protection need to be updated to include the name of the designated member of the management committee; and
- a risk assessment should be carried out on the adequacy of the low perimeter fence outdoors.

9. The pre-school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating, for example, a healthy snack and dental care. There are good opportunities for the children to engage in a wide range of energetic play outdoors.

## **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

10. The pre-school leader has worked hard to develop a full range of policies and supporting materials. She has continued to access training and engage in professional development. The staff value the support of their early years specialist (EYS). The leader and centre's EYS need to work more closely together to ensure that the training afforded is reflected more fully in the practice to bring about improvement in the provision. The EYS has provided insufficient systematic support on the core elements of the curriculum and on improving the skill of the staff to promote the children's learning.

11. 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. Five of the parents responded to the questionnaire and two made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire endorse the work of the staff with the children. The responses from the management group and the staff questionnaires were also very positive. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the pre-school centre.

**12. The key strengths in this pre-school centre include:**

- the good quality of the accommodation and outdoor play area;
- the children's good levels of independence, their involvement in energetic physical play and enjoyment of informal stories;
- the effective use of visits to enhance children's learning;
- the good links with other agencies to support children with additional needs; and
- the administrative work carried out by the leadership and management to support the work of the pre-school.

**13. The priorities identified for improvement are:**

- the quality of the staff interaction to promote learning;
- the development of the planning and use of resources to ensure the provision reflects more effectively the wide range in the children's stages of development and ensures that the children all make sufficient progress in their learning;
- the provision by the EYS of more systematic training, monitoring and evaluation for the staff in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

14. In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this pre-school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards, learning and teaching and leadership and management 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 pre-school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

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