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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

Toddle-in Playgroup Moneyreagh

Inspected: November 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Toddle-in Playgroup
Address:	36a Church Road MONEYREAGH Co Down BT23 6BD
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	5 November 2007
Date of previous inspection:	7 February 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	22	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	22	-
• funded by Department of Education	22	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	1	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	95%	-

* Special Educational Needs

** 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	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	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
3 hours	N/A	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	21
Percentage returned:	57.14%
Number of written comments:	2

TODDLE-IN PLAYGROUP, MONEYREAGH, CO DOWN, BT23 6BD (4BB-0384)

1. The centre is located in purpose built mobile accommodation in the grounds of Moneyreagh Primary School. The children come mainly from the 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 have been taken into account as part of the inspection. A few parents included written comments praising the staff and work of centre.

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 pre-school gives good attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and some physical activity. There are effective policies and programmes in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- There is a settled, happy atmosphere; relationships between the staff and the children are excellent. The centre's positive ethos promotes effectively the children's confidence and self-esteem. The staff work together effectively in the best interests of the children.
- The children's play is settled and many show good concentration in their activities; they are encouraged to become independent and to make choices. The children relate well to one another and respond well to the staff's expectations and their behaviour is very good.
- Much thought has been given to developing an attractive and stimulating learning environment. Good use is made of the children's own art work, photographs, posters and interest areas to stimulate their curiosity and learning.
- The range of interesting and imaginative activities on offer provides satisfactory or good learning in all areas of the pre-school programme. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development and the development of their own creativity and imaginative play are particular strengths.
- During the inspection, there were many occasions when the skilful involvement of the staff in the children's play promoted their language and learning effectively. The staff often provided the children with new ideas, praise and encouragement, which assisted the children to persevere with their chosen task, develop their concentration and extend their play.

- The new leader, with the support of the other members of staff, has brought about many improvements since she took up post; she provides effective leadership and demonstrates enthusiasm and commitment to developing the work of the centre. There is a developing sense of team spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff who all contribute to the good quality of the centre's provision.

6. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation; although this work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in reviewing aspects of the programme. The centre's new early years specialist should now work with the staff to target specific aspects of the work of the centre, recording clearly the improvements that have been brought about through the self-evaluation process.

7. The quality of education provided in this pre-school centre is very good. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the pre-school centre's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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