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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

**Watt Fun Community Playgroup
Coleraine**

Inspected: February 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Watt Fun Community Playgroup
Address:	Ballywatt Presbyterian Church Hall Ballywatt Road COLERAINE Co Londonderry BT52 2LT
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	21 February 2008
Date of previous inspection:	23 October 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	25	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	22	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	22	-
• 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	1	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	3	-
Attendance:		-
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	81%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

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

Number of: **	
Students	0
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	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	19
Percentage returned:	73.7
Number of written comments:	5

**WATT FUN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY,
BT52 2LT (3AB-0130)**

1. Watt Fun Community Playgroup is accommodated in Ballywatt Church Hall, Coleraine. Most of the children who attend the centre come from the surrounding rural area.

2. The parents, staff and management committee were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses returned indicate a very high level of satisfaction with the provision; they have been shared with the staff and management.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the centre is excellent. It has comprehensive policies and procedures for child protection that comply fully with the Department of Education Circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that these policies and procedures are implemented effectively by all of the staff who show a very high level of concern for the children's welfare.

4. The centre gives excellent attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

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

- The centre has a very positive ethos and the working relationships at all levels are excellent.
- The staff have created a bright and stimulating learning environment; examples of the children's paintings, photographs and topical displays arouse the children's curiosity and good use is made of all the space available to provide interesting areas for play.
- The daily timetable is very well organised to provide a good balance between extended periods of free play and enjoyable and purposeful group activities. The transitions and routines are managed very smoothly and effectively.
- The quality of the staff's interaction to promote language, learning and thinking is very good, and often, excellent. The staff provide sensitive support where additional learning needs are identified, the quality of the one-to-one support provided is very good; the staff ensure that the children are well integrated within the centre and that individual needs are met.
- The pre-school programme gives very good opportunities for learning across the curriculum. The children are well-motivated and sustain prolonged periods of concentrated and co-operative play. The staff make effective use of the play opportunities to promote the children's oral language and listening skills, and they develop a very high level of interest in books and early marking among the children. There is very good promotion of a wide range of early mathematical

language and concepts of number, quantity and shape through investigative activities. The development of the children's skills of observation and prediction are further promoted through the staff's judicious use of early scientific investigative activities.

- The staff monitor and record the children's progress and are using appropriately this information to inform and refine the learning potential in the planning.

6. The centre is well-organised and managed effectively by the leader. She is an excellent role-model and promotes a strong sense of team-work among the highly dedicated staff; they all contribute to the very good quality of provision. The staff have made a good start to the process of self-evaluation leading to improvement. They evaluate appropriately the weekly programme and have identified, in a brief plan, suitable areas for development. These actions provide a sound basis from which the staff can develop further a more structured and detailed approach to self-evaluation leading to improvement.

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

No follow-up inspection is required.

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