

# Ulster tots to give TV tips in war on racism

By Staff Reporter

A BANBRIDGE nursery school's efforts to stamp out racism, sectarianism and physical prejudice is to be the focus of a television documentary.

A TV crew from RTE will visit Banbridge Pre-School Playgroup next Thursday to film the children, parents and classroom assistants.

Playgroup leader, Linda McAdam was approached to participate in the documentary, having recently completed training in the Media Initiative for Children 'Respecting Differences' programme.

The initiative is a joint effort between the Peace Initiatives Institute (PII) and NIPPA, The Early Years Organisation to use mass media and classroom experience to instil in young children the value of respecting and including others who are different.

Through the use of educational resources, the children will learn about cultural, racial and physical differences.

"There is a cartoon which we show

on TV which has four little characters in it," explained Linda.

"There is one little boy who is left out because he has a patch on his eye and wears glasses.

"The rest of the characters realise that he is sad and at the end they make him part of their group.

"It really makes the children understand that we are all different but we can still live together.

"We also have four puppets, so we are using them as characters to represent being happy and sad.

"We use flags from different cultures around the world in our teaching and show different sports such as hurling, hockey, canoeing and football."

The pre-school was approached by NIPPA to take part.

"They asked if we would be happy to have the television crew come up and do some filming with us," explained Linda. "They will be talking to some of the parents, the children and ourselves about the 'Respecting Differences' programme.

"It's a great lift for us and it's a great programme to be involved in."