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Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



**Education and Training Inspectorate**

**Report of a Baseline Inspection Visit**

**of**

**Orchard County Primary School Nursery Unit  
Craigavon**

**May 2013**

## **INSPECTION VISIT TO ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT**

In September 2012, the Southern Education and Library Board established a nursery unit providing a morning session in Orchard County Primary School for children in their pre-school year.

An inspection visit to the pre-school session was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013. This inspection evaluation is based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from the scrutiny of a range of relevant documentation provided by the school.

### **Summary of main findings**

**During the visit, the following strengths of the pre-school session were observed:**

- there is a friendly, caring atmosphere in the unit and working relationships at all levels are very good. The children are well settled and engage in lengthy periods of concentrated, purposeful and productive play;
- the staff plan an interesting programme for learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum and take good account of the children's different needs and interests to ensure appropriate challenge and variety in the planned activities;
- the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is consistently very good; the staff are skilful in promoting and developing the children's self esteem, language development, thinking skills and independence;
- there are very good methods of record keeping and assessment in place to build up an accurate profile of each child's progress and development throughout the year;
- very good links have been established with the parents and the neighbouring primary school; and
- the staff are hard working and committed to the future development of the nursery unit.

**In order to improve further the educational and pastoral provision, the staff should now:**

- continue to build up the range of resources to enhance further the provision in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

### **Conclusion**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the nursery unit is very good. The nursery unit is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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