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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
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 1st 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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