



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**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 Follow-up Inspection

**Ballinascreen Early Years
Draperstown**

June 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BALLINASCREEN EARLY YEARS, DRAPERSTOWN, MAGHERAFELT, CO LONDONDERRY, BT45 7AG (3AB-0101)

The inspection in Ballinascreen Early Years in January 2011 highlighted strengths in the caring and positive ethos; the good quality of the interaction between the staff and children; the hard-working staff who work well as a team; the good examples observed of the children playing co-operatively; and the often good quality interactions between the adults and the children.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to review the organisation of the day and the use made of routines to ensure all the time is used effectively;
- to develop further and provide increased opportunities for a wider range of outdoor play and creative activities; and
- to make greater use of observation and evaluations when planning future activities.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions, which affect the work of the playgroup, have taken place:

- the leader of the playgroup has visited another pre-school setting to view practice in order to develop the organisation of the day;
- the members of staff have revised their methods of recording the observations and the evaluations of the children's progress through play; and
- additional funding has been obtained to acquire a wider range of resources for energetic, physical play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out interim follow-up visits in March 2012 and in November 2012 and a follow-up inspection on 14 June 2013. The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the original inspection findings was of a good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the organisation of the day develops effectively the children's purposeful play;
- the children access an improved range of outdoor play resources;
- the observations of the children's play are more systematic , detailed and inform the staff's interactions with the children;
- the staff's weekly evaluations of the play focus more fully on the intended learning for individual children and the children's responses; and
- the quality of the adult interactions with the children is consistently good.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by Ballinascreen Early Years playgroup is now good. The playgroup has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the playgroup has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The key area identified for improvement is the need for:

- the staff to develop further the planning and provision for energetic outdoor play.

The District Inspector will monitor progress on the area for improvement during normal district visits.

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