



*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**

**Broughshane Centre of Early Learning  
Ballymena**

**May 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BROUGHSHANE CENTRE OF EARLY LEARNING, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT42 4JY (3AB-0142)**

The inspection of Broughshane Centre of Early Learning in March 2010 highlighted strengths in the quality of the caring ethos and the learning environment.

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

- the quality of the staff's interactions with the children;
- the assessment methods used; and
- the physical play programme.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place:

- all of the children attending are in their immediate pre-school year; and
- a safe, enclosed outdoor area adjacent to the playroom has been developed and resourced.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 27 May 2011.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality. The new independent early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation is providing well focused and relevant support.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- the new outdoor area provides better opportunities for regular physical activity and outdoor play;
- the staff demonstrate a greater level of skill and understanding in developing the children's independence, language and thinking;
- there are good to very good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum and as a result the children sustain much higher levels of concentrated and purposeful play throughout the session;
- the children are more independent, use mathematical language more frequently and engage in higher levels of exploratory and imaginative play;
- the planning is more detailed and guides the staff in providing a more challenging and progressive pre-school programme; and
- the assessment methods are more systematic and are helping the staff to identify more effectively the children's needs.

The minor areas which need further improvement are the need:

- to manage more effectively the transition to outdoor play;
- to continue to develop the planning and assessment methods to identify and monitor the actions to be taken to support individual children; and
- to focus the weekly evaluations of play more fully on the intended learning and the children's responses.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school is now good. The pre-school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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