



*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

**Giggles Day Care Centre
Newry**

May 2012

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GIGGLES DAY CARE CENTRE, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT35 7EE (5CA-0549)

The inspection of Giggles Playgroup in June 2010 highlighted strengths such as the welcoming atmosphere; the care and respect shown to the children by the staff; the effective organisation of the daily timetable; and the children's sustained levels of concentration. In addition, the inspection team noted the many instances of good quality interaction between the staff and the children; the satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the preschool curriculum; the enthusiasm of the new leader; and the developing sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff.

The inspection also identified the following area for improvement:

- to develop further the planning and assessment methods and use them to ensure that the learning inherent in the activities is identified and that the experiences provided for the children progress steadily over the year.

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

- there has been one change in the staff team;
- the staff have undertaken appropriate cluster group, centre-based and external training in aspects of provision such as developing high quality adult interactions with children in the early years;
- the playgroup has developed systematic procedures for sharing information with the parents about the learning programmes and about their children's progress;
- the staff have reviewed the procedures for observation and planning; and
- the playgroup has received very good, well-focused support from their early years specialist (EYS) from the early years organisation (EYO).

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits (IFUV) in October 2011 and January 2012 and a follow-up inspection (FUI) on 30 May 2012.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the original inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality.

The playgroup's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the children demonstrate good levels of independence in managing the snack routine, in labelling their work, and in making choices about their activities;
- the parents receive regular and useful information about the planned learning programmes and about their children's progress;
- the planning outlines clearly the intended learning in each activity and identifies the action to be taken to meet the needs of individual children, as necessary;

- the staff make effective use of their evaluations of the children's responses to the planned learning activities, together with their observations of the children at play, to inform planning for individuals and small groups, as necessary;
- there are good to very good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum; and
- the quality of the adult interactions with the children is consistently good or very good.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The playgroup 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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