



*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

**Glen and Barr Playgroup
Newry**

June 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GLENN AND BARR PLAYGROUP, JETTERSPASS, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 1SX (5AB-0212)

The original inspection of Glenn and Barr Playgroup in 2011 highlighted strengths in the purpose built accommodation and the good range and quality of the resources; the welcoming atmosphere and the care and respect shown to the children by the staff; the lengthy period of free play which allows the children to sustain good levels of concentration in their play; the good quality of the interaction between the staff and the children; the satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the preschool curriculum; and the good links with the parents and the local primary schools to which the children transfer.

It also highlighted the following areas for improvement:

- to review and develop further the centre's policy and procedures for managing behaviour and ensure that all of the staff implement the agreed procedures consistently;
- to develop further the methods for planning and evaluating the provision, and for assessing the children's progress; and
- to review the latter part of the session to ensure that the group story sessions meet more effectively the children's differing needs and that the outdoor play sessions are carefully planned to maximise the use of the limited space available.

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

- the staff have recently secured the support from an independent early years specialist who has provided clear guidance and support to the staff which has helped them to improve the provision for the children;
- all of the staff have attended a course on behaviour management;
- the staff have reviewed their planning and methods of assessment; and
- a new outdoor play area has been developed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit and a follow up inspection on 14 June 2013.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a good quality.

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

- the identification of the learning outlined in the planning is now supporting the staff very effectively in their work with the children;
- the planning now provides a very good overview of how the children's learning will progress throughout the year and is sufficiently detailed to guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children;

- there is evidence of ongoing improvement in all aspects of the setting's work which is brought about by the staff's emphasis on reflection and self-evaluation;
- the staff know the children very well; and have continued to develop an appropriate range of observation and assessment methods;
- the development of the attractive outdoor play areas is providing the children with very good opportunities to learn outdoors as they explore for mini-beasts and plant vegetables;
- the staff have developed appropriate behaviour management strategies which they all implement consistently; as a result the children are more settled during the group sessions and their behaviour is good; and
- the organisation of the day has been improved to make more effective use of all learning time.

An area for further development is the need for staff to continue to review the group story time to ensure that it meets the needs of all of the children.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education and pastoral care provide 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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