



*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**

**Glengormley Integrated Primary School Playgroup  
Newtownabbey**

**October 2012**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GLENGORMLEY INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6HJ (3BB-0094)**

The inspection of Glengormley Integrated Primary School Playgroup in November 2010 highlighted strengths in: the contented and settled children; the caring ethos of the playgroup and the quality of relationships at all levels; the good communication with the parents and links with the primary school; and the hard-working and committed staff.

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

- to improve the organisation of the transitional times between routines and activities in order to maximise the children's learning opportunities and experiences fully; and
- to develop more appropriate strategies for monitoring and responding effectively to those children who require additional support with aspects of their development.

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

- the sessions have been re-organised to ensure that they have equal lengths of time and the routines within each session have been revised to ensure the children are allowed to develop greater independence at snack time and there is a more focused tidy-up time;
- the playroom has been re-decorated and the layout and presentation of activities and displays improved to provide a more interesting and stimulating learning environment for the children;
- a range of positive behaviour strategies has been implemented;
- individual education plans have been developed for those children with special educational needs;
- the medium term and short term planning has been revised and a new system for recording observations of children's learning, and using these to inform future planning, has been put in place;
- a culture of self-evaluation to promote improvement has been developed; and
- the staff have received regular focused support from an independent early years' specialist.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit in March 2012 and a follow-up inspection on 11 October 2012.

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

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

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection.

- The re-organisation of the play room and the revised routines effectively enable the children to develop their independence and the staff now make good use of all opportunities for learning throughout each session.
- The agreed approaches to promote positive behaviour are implemented consistently by the staff and, as a result, the children are well-settled and happy; the staff are calm, confident and caring when dealing with behavioural incidents.
- The revised planning and assessment procedures effectively support the staff in their involvement with the children; the staff have a shared understanding of the learning to be promoted through the planned activities and, as a result, the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is of a high standard.
- The staff take very good account of and respond to the interests and needs of each child when planning for the learning, to ensure that the children have appropriate opportunities for progression and development.
- Individual education plans with appropriate targets and strategies are in place for those children who have been identified as having special educational needs; all staff implement the strategies consistently and evaluate their effectiveness on an on-going basis.
- The independent early years' specialist has provided very good guidance and support to enable the staff to make changes and to establish the self-evaluation process through action-planning for improvement.

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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