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*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

**Kenbaan Community Playgroup
Ballymena**

May 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KENBAAN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT43 6JE (3BB-0090)

The inspection in Kenbaan Community Playgroup in May 2011 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos and the broad range of activities being provided. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the development of a more comprehensive record of the children's progress and more effective use of these to meet the children's individual needs;
- the development of the written planning to ensure progression in all areas of learning and consistency in the staff interaction to promote the children's language and thinking; and
- the continuity and quality of the support from an Early Years Specialist (EYS).

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

- The number of funded places has increased from 26 to 37.
- The playgroup now runs an afternoon session for the additional children.
- A new independent EYS was appointed and took up post in October 2011.
- The adjoining outdoor area is being developed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one monitoring visit and a follow-up inspection on 9 May 2012.

The action plan received by the Department of Education following the inspection was of a satisfactory quality.

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

- the staff are making progress in developing their skill and confidence in recording the children's progress and achievements and they are increasingly using these records to identify the support required for meeting children's individual needs;
- the short-term planning now guides the staff more effectively in their work and reflects more frequently the children's own ideas and interests;
- the staff more consistently promote the children's thinking and language and are less adult directive in their approaches during the session;
- the very good support and guidance provided by the independent EYS is valued by the staff; and
- on the day of the follow up inspection, the broad range of well resourced activities provided good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

The areas which need further improvement are the need to:

- continue to develop the planning for outdoor play; and

- develop further the leadership and management roles to provide more effective monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the provision in order to embed the recent improvements and ensure continuous improvement.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education and pastoral care provide by this playgroup is now good. The playgroup 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 need to be addressed but equally the playgroup has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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