



*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

**St Mary's Girls' Primary School Nursery Unit
Strabane**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, STRABANE, CO TYRONE, BT82 9EF (203-6096)

The inspection of St Mary's Girls' Primary School's Nursery Unit in November 2010 highlighted a range of strengths. These included the friendly and welcoming atmosphere; the staff's hard work to ensure that the children's learning experiences were broad across all areas of the pre-school curriculum; the detailed assessment records kept for each child and the use made of these to make adjustments to the planned programme; the hard-working nursery teacher in charge; and the good teamwork amongst the dedicated teaching and support staff.

The inspection also identified two areas for improvement. The priorities for further development included the need to:

- improve the quality of the staff's interaction with the children to a consistently higher level to ensure greater learning from the activities and to extend the children's language development; and
- review the organisation of the day and to ensure that the transitions and routines support more effective use of time for learning and the involvement of the parents.

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

- The staff have conducted several audits to review and evaluate key aspects of the nursery unit's provision.
- The Principal and staff have visited and observed practice in other pre-school settings and engaged with a variety of early years professionals in the pre-school sector and the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) to improve further the provision for learning.
- The staff have undertaken a range of additional training to support the children's early language development.
- The staff have consulted with parents about the work of the nursery unit, created regular opportunities for contact and established additional methods of communication with the parents.
- The organisation of the day was revised to utilise more effectively all of the time available for learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit and a follow-up inspection on 13 June 2012.

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

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

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection.

- The quality of the staff's interactions has improved and they now make good use of the learning potential arising from the children's responses and interests;
- The parents have become more involved in, and informed about, their children's learning.
- The organisation of the day has been improved to utilise more effectively the time available for learning.
- The children respond very positively to their daily routines and transitions.
- The Principal has shown very good leadership and management in implementing an effective range of strategies to improve the overall quality of the nursery unit's provision.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is now good. The nursery unit 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 organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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