



*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

Tiny Toons Community Playgroup Downpatrick

March 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TINY TOONS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, DOWNPATRICK, CO DOWN, BT30 7DQ (4AB-0157)

The inspection in Tiny Toons Community Playgroup in February 2011 highlighted strengths in the welcoming environment and the very good relationships at all levels; the good opportunities for learning provided in most areas of the pre-school curriculum; the good engagement of most of the children with their play; the many instances of good interaction between the staff and the children; and the good leadership and collaborative team approach of the staff.

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

- to continue to review the planning and the use made of evaluations and observations in order to best meet the needs of individual children; and
- to develop further the provision in outdoor play and the curriculum area of the World Around Us (WAU).

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

- the leader of the playgroup and the staff have visited other pre-school settings to view practice in order to develop further the team's evaluation of planning and the provision for outdoor play;
- additional funding has been obtained to acquire a wider range of resources for energetic, physical play;
- the members of staff have reviewed and redesigned the planning to include more appropriate detail regarding the weekly learning objectives, the role of the adult in the development of the children's learning activities and further opportunities for learning regarding the WAU; and
- the members of staff have had very good, well-focused support from the early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit and a follow-up inspection on 15 March 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 have extended periods of purposeful outdoor play;
- the children now have very good opportunities to explore and experiment with a wider range of WAU related play resources;
- the staff 's revised approach to planning identifies appropriate progression in the learning and indicates more clearly the role of the adult;

- the staff's weekly evaluations of the play focus more fully on the intended learning for individual children and the children's responses;
- the staff use systematic assessment methods which are meaningful and help them identify more effectively the children's learning needs;
- the quality of the adult interactions with the children is consistently good and in many instances, it is very good; and
- the playgroup leader now provides very good leadership; she has developed well the staff's capabilities to evaluate their practice.

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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