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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

Kenbaan Community Playgroup Ballymena

February 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - BALLYMENA AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in Kenbaan Community Playgroup in St Joseph's Early Years Centre during February 2009.

The strengths include:

- the very good strategic planning by the management group, working in conjunction with SureStart and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, to secure the future of pre-school education in the area, within the newly established St Joseph's Early Years Centre;
- the collaborative work undertaken to date with the other providers within St Joseph's Early Years Centre to ensure the very good use of the facilities and the resources;
- the very good arrangements to evaluate the quality of the learning experiences in order to improve the provision;
- the very good quality of the care, guidance and support provided for the children, including those with additional learning needs; and
- the effective management of the induction process, which takes account of those children who are returning to the centre for a second year.

An area for improvement is the need to develop further the transition arrangements, through the strengthening of the pastoral links, with those primary schools to which the children will transfer in order to ensure continuity and progression in the children's learning experiences.

While only one specific area for improvement has been identified in this inspection report, the composite report from the area-based inspection raises broader issues which need to be addressed by all of the schools and organisations visited.

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