



*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**

**St Louis' Pre-School 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 St Louis' Pre-School 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 quality of the learning experiences which are well matched to the needs and interests of the children, and which promote very effectively their language and thinking skills; and
- the effective management of the induction process; and
- the opportunities for parents to evaluate aspects of the provision.

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; this improvement is necessary to ensure continuity and progression in the children's learning experiences.

While only one specific area for improvement has been identified in this 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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