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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**

**Ballycolman Nursery School  
Strabane**

**May 2010**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BALLYCOLMAN NURSERY SCHOOL, STRABANE, CO TYRONE, BT82 9AQ (211-6333)**

The inspection of Ballycolman Nursery School in February 2008 highlighted strengths in the hardworking staff, the organisation of the learning environment and the support provided for the children with additional learning needs. The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to exploit the learning potential within the resources and the daily routines to extend the children's thinking and understanding; and
- to develop the assessment methods to provide evidence of the children's progression across all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

### **In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the nursery school has taken place.**

- Additional resources have been added to support progression in the pre-school curriculum.
- One of the teaching staff attended a Western Education and Library Board (WELB) training course on assessment.
- The Principal provided in-service training for the classroom assistants on interactions and assessment methods and developed further the healthy eating arrangements in liaison with the WELB school meals service.
- The WELB Curriculum Advisory and Support Service provided advice on the development of the action plan in response to the inspection.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in March 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 19 May 2010.

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

The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings; however, it is too brief to guide the strategic development of the nursery provision and needs to be amended to comply fully with the School Development Plans Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

### **The following are the most important improvements since the inspection.**

- The staff have begun to adjust the planning to focus more directly on the children's learning outcomes and the progression they make throughout the year.
- There are some instances of good quality interaction, particularly in the development of the children's mathematical language and, on occasion, these interactions help extend the children's thinking and understanding.
- There has been a review of aspects of the daily routines to ensure they support more effectively the children's independence and learning.

- The introduction of the key worker assessment system is helping the staff to record more systematically the children's progress and development.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this nursery school remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The nursery school has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but significant areas for improvement in learning and teaching, and leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor the nursery school's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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