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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



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Ballygawley Early Years
Co Tyrone**

December 2006

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN BALLYGAWLEY EARLY YEARS, CO TYRONE BT70 2HD (5AB-0205)

The inspection in February 2005 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos of the centre, the relationships between staff, parents and children, and the skilful involvement of the staff in the children's play. The report also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to ensure a consistent approach to assessment; and
- the need to provide better opportunities for physical play through a more creative use of the outdoor area.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action, which affects the work of the pre-school centre, has taken place.

- A new leader and assistant were appointed and took up post in September 2005.
- A High/Scope curriculum is now being implemented in the centre.
- The new High/Scope early years specialist has facilitated training courses for the staff in "High/Scope Implementation" and "Learning Outdoors".
- Additional resources to develop and improve the outdoor play area have been acquired.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 7 December 2006 and also takes account of the findings of the visits in September 2005 and January 2006.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the management group.

- The staff have worked hard to develop appropriate High/Scope approaches to planning and assessment. The leader is a good professional role-model and has established a strong sense of team-work among the staff. They receive valuable support from their early years specialist. The staff now make regular observations of the children's progress and are using this information more effectively to inform the planning, ensuring that it now reflects more consistently the needs and interests of the children.
- The outdoor area has been thoughtfully developed and now provides a much wider range of interesting and stimulating experiences for the children across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children's physical development is now promoted more effectively, using a wider range of resources.

The pre-school centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

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