



*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

**Ballymacward Pre-School Centre
Stoneyford, Lisburn**

October 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BALLYMACWARD PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, STONEYFORD, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 3SU (4BB-0173)

The inspection in Ballymacward Pre-school Centre highlighted the very positive ethos in the centre; the caring relationships between the adults and the children; the good range of appropriate activities to promote learning in almost all areas of the curriculum; the many examples of concentrated and co-operative play; and the good examples of effective interaction between the staff and the children that helped to promote the children's thinking and understanding.

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

- the planning, based on the outcomes of the observations of the children's responses to the activities; and
- the provision for physical play to ensure challenge and progression in the children's experiences.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place:

- the planning and assessment methods have been revised;
- the range of resources for energetic, physical play has been extended;
- the children are provided with regular opportunities for physical activities; and
- the early years specialist provides relevant support and guidance to the staff.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 9 October 2008. The pre-school centre has a development plan. It has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- The revised planning formats provide appropriate guidance for the staff in their interactions with all children. The planning identifies more clearly the role of the adult and the intended learning opportunities.
- A suitable system of assessment is being developed, based on the staff's observations of the children's responses during the play.
- The staff are developing a more appropriate programme for physical play.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory 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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