



*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

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Belcoo Community Playgroup
Co Fermanagh**

April 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BELCOO COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO FERMANAGH, BT93 5DS (2AB-0320)

The inspection in Belcoo Community Playgroup in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the commitment of the leader and the enthusiastic, hard-working team, the satisfactory opportunities for the children to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum and the children's good behaviour and relationships with the staff; it identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to review the layout and organisation of the provision in order to define, and develop further the areas of play and the transitional routines, in ways that will more effectively sustain progression in the children's learning throughout the year; and
- to develop further the planning in order to inform, and help to improve, the interaction between the staff and the children, promoting greater sustained shared involvement and productive play.

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

- the development of defined and stimulating areas of play;
- the improved organisation of the transitional routines which provide better opportunities for greater involvement by the children in learning to take responsibility for appropriately arranging the resources after play;
- the further development of the planning and assessment methods which enable the staff to interact more appropriately with the children; and
- the provision of good quality books and the creation of a quiet book area which encourages the children to share and enjoy stories.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a series of inspection visits to the pre-school as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 3 April 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the monitoring visit in June 2007.

The pre-school does not have a development plan and requires advice, guidance and support from the early years specialist (EYS) to develop one.

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

- The staff interact productively with the children through their shared involvement with their activities and resources and effectively sustain the children's interest in play and learning.

- The children take pride in their playroom and contribute to keeping it tidy and well-presented; they create attractive paintings and representational drawings which the staff display to enhance the playroom.
- The children readily turn to the book area and enjoy a good range of self-selected stories, and they listen attentively to stories told in small groups.
- The staff have continued to develop the planning and assessment methods and demonstrate a better shared understanding of their implementation to promote learning through play. Frequently, the improved levels of the staff questioning promotes the children's language and thinking skills.

The area which needs further improvement is:

- the development of the transitional routines to promote additional learning.

Since the inspection, the pre-school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but some minor areas still require improvement. The organisation requires the support of the EYS in developing a rigorous process of self-evaluation which leads to improvement.

The pre-school's progress in the minor areas for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.