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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Brooklands Primary School Nursery Unit
Dundonald, Belfast**

April 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BROOKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, DUNDONALD, BELFAST, BT16 2PA

The inspection in February 2008 highlighted strengths in the attractive learning environment and the good relationships between the staff and the children and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- more effective monitoring by the school principal and the nursery co-ordinator to ensure a greater degree of consistency in the quality of the practice throughout the nursery;
- the promotion of a wider range of early mathematical language and concepts; and
- the planning for outdoor play to include more detail on the learning to be promoted.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the nursery unit has taken place:

- curriculum support and training has been provided by the South Eastern Education and Library Board Curriculum and Support Services Officer;
- the behaviour policy has been reviewed and amended; and
- the staff have attended some relevant early years training events.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in November 2008, and a follow-up inspection visit on 30 April 2009.

The action plan produced by the nursery unit in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visit. The future priorities for development within the nursery unit should be included in the whole school development plan and the effectiveness of the action plans monitored and evaluated by the school Principal.

Very good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The nursery unit has demonstrated the capacity to address the few remaining minor areas for improvement.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- the planning for outdoor play identifies more clearly a wider range of activities and the adults' role to support learning, leading to a significantly better quality of experiences for the children;
- a wider range of mathematical language and concepts are promoted in all of the nursery classes through the play activities, daily routines and a wide repertoire of songs and rhymes;

- the quality of the staff's interaction with the children is of a more consistently high standard; during the inspection visit all of the staff demonstrated skill in promoting the children's thinking, language and learning;
- the behaviour management policy has been amended and is implemented by all of the staff;
- the methods for recording the children's progress are more systematic and comprehensive; the information is being used more effectively to tailor the programme to the children's needs and interests; and
- the nursery co-ordinator has given effective leadership in bringing about the necessary improvements along with her hard-working and committed staff.

Since the inspection, the nursery unit has 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 strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this organisation is now good. The organisation has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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