



*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

**Busy Bee Playgroup
Maghera**

June 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BUSY BEE PLAYGROUP, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5BA (3AB-0359)

The inspection in November 2007 highlighted strengths in the commitment of the staff and the quality of the accommodation. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the policies and procedures for child protection;
- the methods of planning and assessment; and
- the quality of the staff interactions in promoting the children's learning.

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

- the staff updated their training in child protection in February 2008;
- a designated member of the management group has accessed training in child protection;
- the procedures for the personal care of the children have been documented and shared with the parents;
- the staff have accessed training in special educational needs;
- the pre-school centre's early years specialist has provided relevant guidance in curriculum planning and assessment;
- the staff have visited other pre-school centres; and
- the centre has acquired funding to develop the outdoor play area.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out monitoring visits in June 2008 and February 2009, and a follow-up inspection on 8 June 2009.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The centre does not have a development plan.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the policies and procedures for child protection have been improved and now reflect the guidance issued by the relevant department;
- the medium-term planning identifies appropriate progression through a range of suitable themes and topics and the planning includes useful guidance for the staff in developing the children's language and thinking;
- the staff use a key-worker system to record their observations of the children's responses to the play activities;
- the staff are beginning to exploit more fully the learning potential of the resources; and
- the routines and transitions are more effectively managed.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre 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 more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The pre-school centre has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but 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 pre-school centre's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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