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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Crossgar Community Playgroup Co Down

April 2007

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN CROSSGAR COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT30 9EG (4BB-0185)

The inspection in January 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the quality of the accommodation and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning;
- the quality of the staff's involvement in the play;
- the pre-school curriculum; and
- the links with the parents.

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

- A new leader has been appointed and took up post in October 2005.
- There have been several changes in the early years specialist support. A new early years specialist has been appointed and took up post in November 2005.
- The centre received a grant from Awards for All, which has been used to purchase equipment for outdoor play.
- The staff visited a number of other pre-school settings as part of their staff development programme.
- The outdoor decking area has been fenced-in making it more secure.
- The outer gate is kept closed when the children are in the outdoor play area to increase security.

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 18 April 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in November 2005 and January 2007. Evidence from the initial visits demonstrated a lack of sufficient progress in the key areas identified in the inspection. The staff report that the high turn over of early years specialist support in recent years was a contributing factor in the rate of progress being made.

The pre-school centre is now beginning to make satisfactory progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- The room layout has been improved to create more richly resourced and stimulating areas for play. This is contributing significantly to more settled and sustained play by the children.
- There are better opportunities for developing the children's independence, creativity, problem-solving skills and curiosity.

- The children benefit from the areas provided to promote an interest in early marking and writing and for listening to stories.
- The buffet break is managed effectively to promote the children's personal and social skills.
- The written planning provides more detailed guidance in some aspects of the programme and is beginning to take account of the need which some children have for individual support.
- During the final follow-up inspection visit there were some good examples of effective staff interaction when they made good use of open-ended questions and discussion to promote language, learning and thinking skills.
- The parents are given more comprehensive information about the centre.
- There is evidence of improvement in the overall quality of the children's play experiences across the pre-school curriculum.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- The staff need to continue to develop the written planning by identifying the learning within the outdoor play programme, showing how learning progresses in all areas of play and how the role of the adult supports and promotes learning.
- The staff should ensure that their interaction with the children is more consistently of a high level.
- The centre's early years specialist should work closely with the staff to give focused support and training in the areas identified.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the pre-school centre to ensure that the improvements which are needed are implemented.

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