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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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**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

**Crows Nest Community Playgroup
Aghadowey, Coleraine**

April 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF CROWS NEST COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, AGHADOWEY, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT51 4BT (3AB-0127)

The inspection in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the centre and the promotion of the children's language skills and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the methods of planning and assessment; and
- the quality and range of resources.

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

- a new leader and a new assistant have been appointed and took up post in September 2007;
- the staff have attended a range of relevant training including planning for physical and outdoor play, observing and recording children's progress, and in supporting children with special educational needs; and
- new resources have been acquired to enrich the children's experiences in a range of play areas including construction, creative and small world play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an inspection visit to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 28 April 2008.

The pre-school centre has developed yearly action plans. These have been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- The medium term planning has been developed to include the learning potential within a range of themes and resources, and it identifies progression in most areas of play.
- The staff have developed a key worker system to help them observe and record the children's progress.
- Individual learning plans are in place for those children who require additional support.
- The staff make regular observations of the children's responses to the planned programme and these are evaluated weekly to inform future plans.

The minor areas which need further improvement are:

- the staff need to plan more effectively for outdoor play to ensure that the children have more opportunities for energetic, physical play; and
- the outdoor space should be used more creatively to enrich the children's experiences in all areas of the curriculum.

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-review 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 pre-school centre's progress in the minor areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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