

eti

*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

**Dundela Infants School Nursery Unit
Belfast**

March 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DUNDELA INFANTS SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, BELFAST, BT4 3BL (101-6242)

The original inspection highlighted strengths in the daily timetable and the children's good behaviour. The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- a more consistently high quality in the staff interaction with the children;
- the development of the planning and assessment methods to ensure suitable progression in the children's learning and a closer match in the support for individual needs; and
- more focused leadership and clarity in roles and responsibilities to ensure improvement and consistency of practice.

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

- a new nursery co-ordinator has been appointed;
- the staff have visited a number of other nursery schools for continued professional development; and
- the nursery staff have received training and support from the Belfast Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory Support Services.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit as part of the follow-up process in September 2008 and a follow-up inspection on 2 March 2009.

The action plan produced by the nursery unit in response to the inspection findings identified the key issues to be addressed and the actions to be taken.

The nursery unit development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. This should now be included in the whole school development plan.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the quality of the overall learning environment has been enhanced through the increased use of natural materials and more richly resourced areas for play which support the children's own choice and independence;
- the written planning more effectively identifies the learning to be promoted and is implemented more consistently by the staff;

- there are better opportunities for the children to develop in all areas of the pre-school curriculum, in particular, the promotion of early mathematical language and ideas and the children's own creative ideas and exploratory play; the children display consistently high levels of motivation in their learning;
- the staff interactions with the children more consistently support the children's own ideas and promote a wide range of learning and language throughout the nursery unit;
- there is a closer link between the assessment information and the planning for individual children's needs and interests; and
- the nursery co-ordinator, staff team and wider school community have worked together more collaboratively to develop and improve the quality of the overall provision.

The area which need further improvement are as follows:

- the staff should ensure there is sufficient information being recorded to track the children's progress; and
- continue to develop curricular links with year one.

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 continue to be 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 nursery unit is now good. The nursery unit has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some minor aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the nursery unit has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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.