



*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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Dundrum Cross-Community Playgroup Co Down

June 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DUNDRUM CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT33 0LU (4BB-0276)

The inspection in Dundrum Cross-Community Playgroup in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the presentation of the learning environment and in the centre's positive ethos, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning of the educational programme; and
- the methods of assessment.

In the interval since the inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place:

- a new leader and assistant were appointed and took up post on 1 September 2007;
- there have been a number of changes in the early years specialist (EYS) support; the current EYS was appointed in December 2007;
- the new leader has visited some other pre-school settings; and
- additional play resources have been purchased.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 19 June 2008 but it also takes account of the findings of the visits in November 2007. Evidence from the first monitoring visit indicated a significant deterioration in the quality of the provision and the effects of the lack of adequate EYS support.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the first monitoring visit in November 2007.

- The new EYS and the staff have worked extremely hard to improve important aspects of the centre's work.
- The centre has been cleaned effectively; the space is well organised and attractive. Good use is made of the children's work to create a colourful and interesting learning environment.
- The staff have developed, and implement more effectively, behaviour management strategies; the children's behaviour is good and their play is more settled.
- The children's play experiences are extended through the appropriate use of the new range of resources.

- The quality of the staff's interaction is increasingly of a higher standard. Often, they use good questioning techniques to encourage the children to think and to problem-solve.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- a start has been made to developing the planning; the staff need to develop this further, along with the methods of assessment to ensure that the children's individual needs are met more effectively.

Satisfactory progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but some areas still require improvement.

The organisation, with the support of the EYS, should begin to develop a rigorous process of self-evaluation to ensure further improvement in the centre's work.

The 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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