



*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

Early Days Country Playgroup Ballymoney

November 2007

**FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION ON EARLY DAYS COUNTRY PLAYGROUP,
BALLYMONEY, CO ANTRIM, BT53 7DB (3AA-0108)
INSPECTED: 6 NOVEMBER 2007**

The original inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the quality of the accommodation, the caring relationships between the staff and the children, and the satisfactory provision for learning across the pre-school curriculum.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the staff need to review the organisation of the latter part of the session in order to provide more appropriate experiences for the children and promote consistently settled and productive play; and
- the staff should continue to develop their planning and assessment methods.

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

- the planning and assessment methods and the record-keeping formats have been revised and updated;
- the range of resources for outdoor physical play has been extended;
- the children are provided with more regular opportunities for physical activities; and
- the early years specialist provides relevant support and guidance to the staff.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the management group:

- the revised planning formats provide appropriate guidance to the staff in their provision for and interactions with the children;
- the assessment methods are used with increasing effectiveness to identify the interests and needs of the individual children; the staff are becoming more skilful in evaluating the children's progress and development;
- the additional resources and improved organisation of the outdoor sessions are contributing to more purposeful play;
- all time and routines are now used more effectively to support the children's learning; and
- the pre-school leader is developing successfully a culture of self-reflection among all the dedicated staff in the implementation of the relevant changes.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

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.