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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

Early Days Playgroup Bangor

June 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF EARLY DAYS PLAYGROUP, BANGOR, CO DOWN, BT19 6ZG (4BB-0172)

The inspection in Early Days Playgroup in May 2005 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos; the good relationships between the staff and the children; the organisation of the day and the team-spirit generated by the staff and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the methods of assessing and recording the children's progress; and
- the links with the parents.

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

- The staff have worked hard to develop a range of methods to inform parents about the educational programme and to encourage them to become more fully involved in the life and work of the centre.
- The staff have been developing the assessment methods in order to track the children's progress and development.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 6 June 2007.

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

- The staff have now developed a more systematic method for monitoring and recording the children's progress. They regularly observe the children at play and use the information to guide the planning in order to meet the children's differing needs.
- There is now good communication between the staff and the parents. Before the children start to attend the centre the parents and the children are invited to an open day.
- Meetings are held with the parents three times each year to share information on the children's progress and development.
- A noticeboard and detailed monthly newsletters provide useful information about the educational programme and ideas on how the parents can help their own children to learn at home.
- A parental questionnaire is used to seek the views of the parents on all aspects of the life and work of the playgroup.

- A rota for parents has been introduced and they are encouraged to help out in the centre and on educational outings. Additionally, some parents come into the centre to share their interests and talents with the children.

The pre-school centre has made good 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.

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