



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Early Learners Day Nursery
Belfast**

June 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF EARLY LEARNERS DAY NURSERY, BELFAST, BT9 6EJ (1CA-0411)

The pre-school centre is part of the Early Learners Day Nursery. The original inspection highlighted strengths in the caring and supportive ethos and the many examples of the children's concentrated play. The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to update the child protection policies and share these with the parents;
- improve the links with parents;
- to develop the planning and assessment; and
- provide better opportunities to promote and develop the children's imagination, creativity and ability to solve problems.

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

- the child protection policies have been updated and shared with the parents;
- access to both the entrance and kitchen area have been secured; and
- the staff have attended a range of relevant training activities.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits between February and May 2009 as part of the follow-up process, and a follow-up inspection on 3 June 2009.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality; it identified the key issues that needed to be addressed and the actions to be taken.

The pre-school centre has action plans which reflects the inspection findings and has made a useful start to compiling a development plan which identifies some appropriate areas for continued improvement.

Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- the arrangements for child protection are now comprehensive;
- the children have better opportunities to investigate natural materials and living things;

- the staff's interaction with the children during the play activities is of a higher quality; staff make effective use of open-ended questions and give sensitive support to promote the children's language, thinking and ability to problem-solve;
- the children are sustaining higher levels of creative and independent play;
- the written planning is more detailed, identifies the learning potential of activities more clearly and is being implemented by the staff more consistently; and
- the assessment methods provide a more comprehensive overview of the children's development and progress.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre initially had some good support from their early year's specialist (EYS). The support has been less effective in recent months due to a delay in the appointment of a new, permanent EYS. The staff are committed to continuous improvement; the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed further to focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now good. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the pre-school centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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