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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



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Florencecourt Primary School and
Little Bridges Community Nursery
Enniskillen**

May 2009

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF FLORENCECOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LITTLE BRIDGES COMMUNITY NURSERY, FLORENCECOURT, ENNISKILLEN, CO FERMANAGH, BT92 1BZ (201-1881)

The focused inspection in October 2007 in the primary school highlighted strengths in the caring, orderly and supportive learning environment, the confidence and good oral skills of the children, and the leadership of the Principal. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the primary school in the following key areas:

- to review and develop the special educational needs (SEN) provision;
- to continue to raise standards in English; and
- to continue to develop the leadership and management roles of the co-ordinators in order to improve teaching and learning.

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

- the early identification of children with speech and language difficulties;
- the staff training in language development and the teaching of phonics;
- the parental involvement and engagement in reading partnerships;
- the very good quality advice, guidance and support provided by the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) and, in particular, in the implementation of the guided reading programme;
- the effective use of data to track the children's progress and to set appropriate targets for improvement; and
- the very good opportunities for the co-ordinators to lead policy and planning for improvement in literacy and SEN.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits in April and September 2008 and a follow-up inspection on 15 May 2009.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's development plan (SDP) has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The SDP meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Very 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 the few remaining minor areas for improvement.

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

- the children's reading standards have improved significantly;
- the SEN provision is extended and the effective policy and planning to meet the individual children's special educational needs is appropriately implemented; and
- the re-allocation of the budget, to provide resources to help promote and sustain literacy development.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school 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 school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

The inspection in October, 2007 in the Little Bridges Community Nursery highlighted strengths in the good quality accommodation and the bright and attractive learning environment, the satisfactory learning opportunities in all areas of the curriculum and the very good outdoor play.

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

- to improve the staff interaction to match more effectively the needs of the children's differing stages of development;
- to develop further the planning and assessment; and
- to focus on promoting the children's exploration of materials and the development of their creative ideas.

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

- additional resources have been provided in the nursery and the range of the children's learning experiences has been extended;
- a new classroom assistant has been appointed;
- the teacher-in-charge has completed a Hanen Speech and Language training programme focused on meeting the individual needs of the children;
- the Principal provides good support for the work of the nursery staff; and
- there are improved links with external support services for children with special educational needs.

The Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in April and September 2008 and a follow-up inspection on 15 May 2009.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

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

- the quality of the interaction is improved and in the best practice includes the effective use of questioning and use of strategies to promote and sustain the children's responses;
- the assessment processes effectively identifies the needs and stages of development of the individual children and these are linked to the planned programme; and
- better opportunities are provided for the children to make choices in their play and staff are more competent in promoting the children's creative thinking.

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 the few remaining minor areas for improvement.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period has contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the nursery to identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the nursery has demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery is now good. The nursery 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 nursery has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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