



*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

**Foreglen Community Playgroup,
Dungiven**

June 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF FOREGLEN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, DUNGIVEN, CO LONDONDERRY, BT47 4PJ (2AB-0298)

The inspection in Foreglen Community Playgroup highlighted strengths in the friendly atmosphere and well-behaved children, the bright and spacious indoors learning environment, the caring and supportive staff, the satisfactory opportunities for the children to learn in most areas of the pre-school curriculum, the progress made in planning and observation and the appropriate links with parents; it identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the short-term planning, and assessment methods, in order to ensure that staff interactions with the children provide more choice and challenge and are consistently effective in promoting the learning inherent within all the play activities; and
- to exploit more fully the learning potential of the outdoor play area and, in particular, enrich the programme to promote the children's physical development.

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

- the provision of new outdoor facilities and resources through a successful bid from the Department of Education;
- the opportunities taken by staff to avail of professional development in outdoor play provision;
- the provision of agreed use of a large adjacent hall for physical activity; and
- the further development of planning and assessment methods which ensure that staff interactions provide more choice and challenge in the children's learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the pre-school centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 23 June 2008 and also takes account of the findings of a visit on 3 June 2008.

The pre-school has a development plan. It has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- The staff have developed detailed planners for indoor and outdoor play to provide a stimulating and varied programme which is appropriately evaluated.

- The staff interact with the children to exploit the learning potential of the activities and are able to adapt to the needs and interests of the children. Particular strengths include the development of mathematical language and concepts.
- A system of purposeful observation and assessment procedures has been put in place to provide information on the children's individual achievement and future needs.
- The staff have availed of opportunities for professional development in outdoor play provision and planning.
- The outdoor facilities and resources have been significantly enhanced to provide a stimulating learning environment and the pre-school setting has acquired the use of an adjacent hall for physical play during wet weather.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed to the improvement made, and helped the pre-school centre identify its priorities for future development.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the pre-school centre's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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