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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

**Groomsport Playgroup
Bangor**

December 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GROOMSPORT PLAYGROUP, BANGOR, CO DOWN, BT19 6LX (4AB-0537)

The inspection in October 2008 highlighted strengths in the playgroup's provision which included the caring, supportive staff, the attractive and colourful learning environment; the children's good behaviour, the hard-working staff and the good working relationships. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- develop further the methods for planning and evaluating the provision and for assessing the children's progress; and
- improve the range of resources across the curriculum in order to provide a challenging programme that progresses steadily over the year.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the playgroup has taken place.

- the staff have developed new planning and assessment formats; and
- a range of new resources have been purchased.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 3 December 2009. One monitoring visit had also been carried out in the interim period between the original and follow-up inspections.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the original inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality. The playgroup's development plan has also been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the improved range of resources provides more interesting activities and challenge in the programme for the children; and
- the planning highlights more effectively the learning to be promoted and supports the staff in their work with the children.

The Inspectorate recommends that the processes are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education/training provided by this playgroup remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The playgroup has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but some aspects of the assessment methods need to be refined further in order to provide more focused information on the children's achievements.

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