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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**

**Happitots Playgroup**  
**Cullybackey, Ballymena**

**May 2007**

**REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN HAPPITOTS PLAYGROUP,  
CULLYBACKEY, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT42 1NQ (3AB-0102)  
INSPECTED: 24 May 2007**

The inspection in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the work of the staff and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas.

- The development of the assessment methods.
- The need to improve the resources to provide more challenging experiences for the more able children.

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

- Plans have been drawn up and agreed to develop an outdoor area.
- Additional resources have been purchased to support the use of information and communication technology and physical play.
- The staff have attended a wide range of relevant training provided by the Northern Childcare Partnership.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on the 24 May 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in April 2007.

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

- The staff have introduced a wider range of resources into different areas of play. The addition of natural and authentic items is promoting a greater level of sustained purposeful play from the children.
- The entrance area is being used effectively to provide enjoyable music sessions with small groups of children.
- Links have been made with an additional local primary school.
- The centre has developed a monthly newsletter for parents.
- The staff have reviewed the settling in procedures and have made appropriate amendments to facilitate a more appropriate induction for the children into the playgroup.
- A good range of early mathematical concepts and ideas are promoted more appropriately through the play and daily routines.

- The staff are keeping a more thorough record of the children's responses and are beginning to make more useful links with the planning to meet individual needs.

The pre-school centre is beginning to make good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement.

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