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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Happy Faces Playgroup
Clady, Strabane**

May 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF HAPPY FACES PLAYGROUP, CLADY, STRABANE, CO TYRONE, BT82 9QY (2AB-0449)

The inspection of Happy Faces Playgroup in February 2009 highlighted strengths in the pre-school centre's ethos, the quality of the learning environment and the well-developed outdoor provision. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the quality of the staff interaction with the children;
- the implementation of the centre's behaviour management policy; and
- the development of a broader and more challenging pre-school programme to meet the needs of all the children.

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

- A new leader was appointed in September, 2010.
- The staff, along with the early years specialist (EYS), have carried out study visits to another pre-school centre to develop strategies to observe interaction and to share good practice.
- The EYS has conducted monthly visits which focused on a schedule of targets for self-evaluation and improvement.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one monitoring visit in November 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 13 May 2010.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality.

The pre-school centre's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection.

- The children's behaviour is exemplary and there is a calm, purposeful and productive atmosphere of concentrated learning throughout the session.
- The routines at snack, story and home times are well-embedded and the children display high levels of independence in their play and a sense of responsibility towards their environment.
- The children's language and development is appropriately planned for and their good progress is recorded; this information is shared with the parents.
- The staff have developed an effective curriculum planning and assessment process which meets the individual needs and interests of the children.

- The quality of the staff interactions are now of a very good standard and ensure that the children sustain involvement in their play.
- The leader is a very good role-model and she is effectively supported by a hard-working team.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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