



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Harryville Primary School Nursery Unit
Ballymena**

June 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF HARRYVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT42 4BY (301-0781)

The focused inspection in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the caring and supportive ethos and the commitment of the staff to ongoing development and improvement. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the organisation of the daily session;
- the consistent implementation of the nursery's behaviour management strategies; and
- the need for more skilful interactions to extend the children's thinking and learning.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the nursery have taken place:

- the teacher-in-charge of the nursery has accessed relevant training in aspects of the pre-school curriculum and nursery practice;
- the nursery staff have been involved in whole-school staff development in relation to behaviour management; and
- the staff have improved the range of resources available for outdoor play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 1 June 2009.

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

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

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The nursery has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

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

- the organisation of the daily session has been reviewed and adapted to meet more appropriately the needs and interests of the children. Routines and transitions are managed more effectively;
- a range of behaviour management strategies has been agreed and these are implemented consistently. The children are familiar with the routines, they respond well to the staff and their behaviour is very good; and

- the staff meet regularly to plan and evaluate the nursery programme. The medium-term planning provides some useful guidance on the learning potential within the activities and resources. The staff now interact more effectively with the children to encourage their enjoyment and understanding of the themes and topics. The staff recognise the need to develop further their interactions particularly in relation to early mathematics and the promotion of the children's physical skills.

Since the inspection, the nursery evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

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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