



*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

**Jack Horner Community Playgroup
Ballycastle**

November 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF JACK HORNER COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, BALLYCASTLE, CO ANTRIM, BT54 6QH (3AB-0245)

The inspection in January 2007 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos, the good relationships at all levels, the valuable links established with the parents and the local community and the reflective approach of the leader. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the further development of the assessment methods; and
- the organisation of the daily routine.

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

- there have been a number of staff changes and a member of staff has been employed to provide support for children with additional needs;
- the policy for special educational needs (SEN) has been updated and additional procedures are in place to meet the individual needs of children more effectively;
- the staff have attended some relevant training in SEN and visited a local nursery school to observe the provision; and
- improvements have been made to the furniture, the display areas and the children's access to the materials in the playroom and outdoors.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 21 November 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visit on 22 October 2008.

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

- the staff have reviewed and improved the organisation of the session. The children are greeted on arrival and settle quickly to play. The routines of the day effectively support the children's sense of responsibility and care for the pre-school centre and create a smooth flow of activity throughout the session;
- there are regular opportunities for the children to enjoy large group stories, musical, physical and outdoor play sessions;
- the staff are becoming more effective in making relevant observations and using them to meet the needs of all of the children;
- good efforts are made to address the additional needs experienced by some of the children;
- the staff provide a greater variety of opportunities for the children to express their ideas and creativity; and

- the staff are making more appropriate links between the information gained from the children's observations and the monthly plans. This is now being recorded in a systematic manner.

The pre-school centre does not have a development plan. The staff are in the process of drafting a comprehensive development plan to inform future work.

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

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now good. The pre-school centre 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 pre-school centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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