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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**

**Keady Community Playgroup  
(The Den in the Glen)  
Co Armagh**

**February 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KEADY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP (THE DEN IN THE GLEN), CO ARMAGH, BT60 3UA (5AB-0405)**

The inspection in February 2008 highlighted strengths in the pre-school centre's ethos and the satisfactory or good opportunities for learning in most aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the planning to ensure that the learning to be promoted for all areas of the programme is identified more clearly;
- to develop further the assessment methods to ensure a more comprehensive record of the children's progress in all aspects of their development is built up over the year; and
- to review and update the centre's policies and procedures for child protection.

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

- an early years specialist (EYS) has been employed to assist the staff in their work; and
- funding was secured to resurface the outdoor play area and to purchase additional resources for this area.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out monitoring visits in April 2008 and December 2008, and a follow-up inspection on 16 February 2009.

The action plan produced by the centre in response to the inspection findings was of satisfactory quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

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

Very good 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 staff have worked very hard with the centre's EYS to implement all of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection;
- the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the centre is now very good. The centre has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children which reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department;

- the methods of planning the programme have been reviewed and modified appropriately to ensure that the learning to be promoted for all areas of the programme are identified clearly and are used to guide the staff in their work with the children; and
- the staff keep detailed records of the children's progress and development; the information is used to inform the planning of the programme and is shared with the parents.

Since the inspection, the centre evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the centre identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through self-evaluation, the centre demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed to include the future development of the outdoor play area.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now very good. The pre-school centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement. Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection.

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