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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

**Kilkeel Playgroup
Co Down**

May 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILKEEL PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT34 4DB (5AB-0400)

The inspection in February 2008 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos, the appropriate methods of assessment and the satisfactory 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 methods of planning to ensure that the learning to be promoted, for all areas of play, is identified clearly and is used to guide the staff more effectively in their work with the children; and
- to review the latter part of the day to ensure that all the time is used effectively to promote learning.

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

- some additional resources were purchased for outdoor play; and
- the playgroup has acquired access to the large hall in the leisure centre one day per week for physical play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit in January 2009, and a follow-up inspection on 29 May 2009.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visit.

The pre-school centre has recently drawn up a development plan which reflects the findings of the original inspection.

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 to implement the necessary changes and to address the areas for improvement identified; they demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and to the ongoing development of the centre;
- the methods of planning the programme have been reviewed and modified 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;

- the vast majority of the children display a positive attitude to their learning and their behaviour is good. During the inspection there were many examples of purposeful and productive play when the children explored and enjoyed the full range of activities;
- the organisation of the session provides a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The necessary routines provide valuable opportunities to promote language and learning as well as the children's independence and social skills; and
- themes and topics are carefully planned and introduced to develop the children's curiosity and imagination and to enhance the quality of the overall provision.

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 pre-school centre identify appropriately its' priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through self-evaluation, the centre demonstrated clear evidence of improvement.

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.

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