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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**

**Kilroot Playgroup  
Carrickfergus**

**January 2007**

## **REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN KILROOT PLAYGROUP, CARRICKERGUS, CO ANTRIM, BT38 7NP (3AB-0144)**

The inspection in Kilroot Playgroup highlighted strengths in the ethos and the links with parents and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas.

- The staff interaction to promote learning and productive play.
- The organisation of the daily timetable.
- The planning and assessment methods.

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

- A new leader was appointed and took up post in November 2005.
- A new early years specialist took up post in October 2006.
- Additional resources and outside storage have been acquired.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on the 26 January 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in December 2006.

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

- The staff are more effective in promoting settled and productive play. The children respond well to the staff's expectations of appropriate behaviour.
- The layout of the room has been improved to provide more space for extended imaginative role-play and co-operative floor play.
- The areas of play are more richly resourced, providing a better range of materials for the children to explore.
- The revised organisation of the daily timetable makes more effective use of all time to promote learning. There is a good balance between an extended period of free play and more adult-directed group activities. The children benefit from an enjoyable story and song session and opportunities for outdoor physical play. The transition times are managed more effectively.
- The staff demonstrate greater skill in exploiting a wide range of language and learning through the play activities. There are better opportunities to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum including early mathematical ideas, language and physical play.

- The staff are continuing to develop their assessment methods. They are beginning to identify and provide appropriate support for specific children.
- The centre has introduced initiatives to promote healthy eating habits among the children.
- The leader is well organised and is highly motivated to provide good quality early years care and education. The staff team have all worked hard to bring about a significant number of changes which are beneficial to the children.

The pre-school centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

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