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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Ligoniel Pre-School  
Belfast**

**June 2008**

## **SECOND FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LIGONIEL PRE-SCHOOL, BELFAST (1AB-0308)**

The original inspection in June 2007 identified the need for major improvements in a number of key areas including:

- the quality of the staff's interaction;
- the planning and assessment methods;
- the need to update policies; and
- a number of child protection and health and safety issues.

**The follow-up inspection in January 2008 identified the need for further development in the following areas:**

- the training and development needed by the staff to support more effectively the children in their learning and to promote productive play;
- the planning and assessment methods; and
- collaborative working by the leader and management of the centre.

**In the interval since the first follow-up inspection visit in January 2008, the following actions which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place:**

- the centre's early years specialist (EYS) has provided good advice, support and training to the staff on a regular basis;
- the child protection policies have been updated and shared with the parents;
- the planning and assessment methods have been reviewed;
- the pre-school session has been shortened to provide a more suitable length of provision for children;
- the staff have been allocated some additional time for planning; and
- on the advice of Environmental Health, the centre no longer provides the children with a cooked meal.

**This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 16 June 2008.**

The following improvements have taken place although they are still in the early stages of development:

- the staff are beginning to demonstrate the benefit of the training by the EYS, as exemplified by more effective interaction to support the children's learning and development;
- the wider range of the children's own creative work which is on display; and
- the planning and assessment methods which are beginning to lead to more enriched experiences for the children.

The pre-school centre has a relevant action plan which focuses on the immediate areas for improvement identified during the previous inspection. There is no evidence, however, of any further progress being made in addressing the longer term areas for improvement required for development of the centre.

Although there has been some progress, the evidence from the follow-up inspection findings indicate that important areas for improvement remain and further progress is still required to build on and sustain the improvement already made.

The inspection evidence also indicates that the small number enrolled for September 2008 is the minimum required to be a part of the pre-school programme.

Despite the hard work and efforts of the staff, the Education and Training Inspectorate does not have confidence in the capacity of the leadership and management to bring about and sustain the necessary improvement.

This report has been referred to the Department of Education to determine the most appropriate action to be taken.

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