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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**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

**Little Amps Playgroup
Maghera**

February 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE AMPS PLAYGROUP, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5SB (3BB-0269)

The inspection in February 2007 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos, the good range of appropriate activities and the many examples of the children's involvement in concentrated and co-operative play. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop the provision for outdoor physical play;
- the quality and consistency of the staff's interactions with the children; and
- to ensure that effective use is made of all the time for learning.

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

- more effective links have been developed with the adjoining primary school;
- the centre has acquired some additional space to extend the outdoor play provision;
- the staff have adapted the planning formats to include a weekly physical play programme;
- useful written prompts have been drawn up to provide guidance for staff in their interactions with the children;
- the staff have begun to include more detailed written evaluations of their planning;
- the staff have begun to take the children's needs and interests into account when planning for the following week;
- the organisation of the day has been reviewed and changes have been made to greeting, snack and home times and the physical play sessions; and
- new furniture and play resources have been purchased and the layout and use of the playrooms has been adapted.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 5 February 2008.

The pre-school centre has an action plan which has been developed as a result of the inspection findings. The leader and the early years specialist (EYS) are in the process of drafting a comprehensive development plan to inform future work.

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

- the staff interact more skilfully with the children during play to promote their language and learning;

- the staff are planning a more appropriate programme for physical play;
- the layout of the equipment, the developing organisation of the session and the use made of the available space are more effective in promoting the children's learning;
- appropriate plans are in place for the continued development of the outdoor play opportunities for the children;
- the staff are evaluating the quality of the children's responses and experiences on a regular basis; and
- the leader, well supported by the staff and the EYS, has worked hard to bring about significant improvements in the overall quality of the children's experiences.

Since the inspection, the pre-school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The 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 but some minor areas still require improvement. The organisation is developing a rigorous process of self-evaluation leading to improvement.

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