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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



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Little Ducks Playgroup
Carew II Family and Training Centre
Belfast**

November 2008

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE DUCKS PLAYGROUP,
CAREW II FAMILY AND TRAINING CENTRE, BELFAST, BT4 1HS (1AB-0477)**

The inspection in January 2008 highlighted strengths in the recent improvements to the learning environment and the links with the local primary school, and also identified the need for major improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to review and implement consistently the behaviour management policy to ensure more settled and productive play;
- training and support to build the staff capacity to provide an appropriate pre-school policy;
- the development of the management and leadership roles to achieve and maintain quality provision; and
- the health and safety issues, including broken equipment, the safe management of outdoor play and the security of the outdoor area.

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

- the former assistant has been promoted to leader in the pre-school room;
- a new assistant has been employed and took up post in September 2008;
- the health and safety issues raised at the previous inspection have all been addressed;
- a development manager has been appointed to the centre which the playgroup is part of; and
- additional resources have been allocated for the parents and children of the playgroup through the local SureStart.

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 14 November 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in February 2008.

The training centre has an overall development plan which includes some relevant action plans for the pre-school centre. The development plan needs to have a stronger focus on who is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of standards and how this will be carried out.

The following improvements have been brought about by the staff:

- the behaviour management policy has been reviewed and is being implemented more consistently and effectively by the staff;
- the children's play is more settled and productive; during the visit there were many good examples of concentrated and co-operative play;
- the staff are making progress in developing a richer and more stimulating pre-school programme; improvements are most noticeable in the promotion of the children's social development and their creative and imaginative play;
- the leadership and management roles have improved at all levels, including the very good support and guidance provided by the early years specialist, the

- enthusiastic pre-school centre leader and the improved focus and support from the management group;
- there are more effective links with the parents to involve them more fully in their children's education and the life of the pre-school centre; and
 - there are more effective links with the local SureStart.

The areas which need further improvement are to:

- continue to train and support the recently appointed staff team in order to build their skill and expertise to meet the needs of all of the children; and
- develop further the capacity of the management group to monitor and evaluate the quality of the provision and bring about continuous improvement.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The pre-school centre has demonstrated evidence of improvement but areas for improvement in learning and teaching and leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met effectively.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the pre-school centre's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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