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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Little Folk Playgroup
Rostrevor**

October 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE FOLK PLAYGROUP, ROSTREVOR, CO DOWN, BT34 3EL (5AB-0336)

The inspection in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the centre's organisation of the daily timetable, the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, the raising of mathematical awareness and the attention given to developing the children's creative ideas. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children in order that it is consistently of a high standard;
- the further development of the written planning, to identify clearly the learning to be promoted in all of the activities and record appropriate observations of the children's responses to the activities in order to track their progress and development over the year; and
- the review of some aspects of the child protection policy to ensure the policy and procedures are fully in line with the guidance outlined in the relevant governing body.

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

- the staff and the management group have worked closely with the centre's early years specialist to address the main areas for improvement identified at the time of the original inspection; and
- a new member of staff has recently been appointed and will take up post as soon as pre-appointment checks have been completed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits in January 2008 and February 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 20 October 2009.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of satisfactory quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children has improved; the staff now spend valuable time with the children engaging them in discussion about their play and experiences;
- the child protection policy has been reviewed in line with relevant guidelines and the staff implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the children; and
- in the written planning, the intended learning is identified and this is helping to guide the staff in their work with the children.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- the implementation of a more consistent approach by the key workers to observing and recording the children's progress and development, to ensure that the information is used to inform the planning;
- the organisation of the group story and the physical play session need to be reviewed to ensure that all the available time is used effectively to promote learning; and
- the development of self-evaluation procedures to support the future development work of the centre.

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 some evidence of improvement but significant areas for improvement in leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met effectively.

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

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