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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**

**Maine Integrated Playgroup  
Randalstown**

**June 2010**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MAINE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, RANDALSTOWN, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3EH (3BB-0533)**

The inspection in May 2009 highlighted strengths in the caring ethos and the commitment of the leader and staff to the development of the centre. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key area:

- the quality of the interactions of the staff with the children, in order to enrich the curriculum and extend the children's thinking and learning.

### **In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place:**

- additional resources have been acquired to enhance the planned programme, particularly in the outdoor area;
- the staff have visited another pre-school centre;
- the staff have accessed training on improving interactions and on developing creativity; and
- the staff have received well-focused support and guidance from their early years specialist (EYS).

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit in May 2010 and a follow-up inspection on 9 June 2010.

The action plan produced by the centre in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality. The staff should now work with their EYS and the management committee to draft a development plan to promote ongoing evaluation and improvement.

### **The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:**

- the staff's interactions with the children are now more focused on extending the children's language and thinking skills;
- the layout of the playroom and the presentation of the resources help provide a more enriched learning environment;
- the children now have more regular opportunities for outdoor play and the outdoor space is well used to provide a range of activities across the pre-school curriculum;
- the staff are more confident in promoting early writing skills and early mathematical concepts through a variety of play situations; and
- more effective pastoral and curricular links have been established with the foundation stage teachers in the primary school.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now good. The centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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