

**eti**

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

*Providing Inspection Services for*  
**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**

**Matt Talbot Nursery School  
Belfast**

**May 2008**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MATT TALBOT NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT12 7HS (113-6349)**

The inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning and assessment;
- the level of staff interaction to promote language and learning; and
- the need to update the child protection policies and procedures.

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

- a new principal was appointed and took up post in January 2008;
- new planning and assessment formats are being trialled;
- the policies for child protection have been updated;
- the staff have received updated training in child protection;
- the Principal has developed links with the local community including a resident artist and the Gaelic Athletic Association Fun Do programme;
- the staff have attended a range of relevant training events and liaised with other professionals to further their own professional development;
- the nursery is establishing links with another nursery school under the Education for Mutual Understanding programme; and
- the staff have developed an organic garden.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a series of inspection visits to the nursery school as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 29 May 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visits in March 2007 and March 2008.

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

- the written planning identifies the learning more clearly; it is evaluated more regularly and is being implemented more effectively by the staff;
- better account is taken of the children's different stages of development through the planning and organisation of the daily routine;

- the staff demonstrate skill in fostering settled and productive play and in promoting the development of the children's language, early mathematical awareness and investigation;
- the quality of the children's experiences has been enhanced in all areas of the pre-school curriculum, both indoors and outdoors; and
- the Principal is highly motivated and has worked closely with all of the hard-working staff to make significant improvements in many aspects of the nursery provision, within a short period of time; she values the contributions of her staff.

**The areas which need further improvement are:**

- the staff need to continue to develop their skill in building up a comprehensive and systematic method to record the children's progress and to use this information more effectively to meet individual needs; and
- the updated policies need to be ratified by the Board of Governors and shared with the parents.

The nursery school has a development plan which identifies some appropriate areas for further development; associated action plans need to be developed further to provide clear guidance to support the staff in bringing about the intended improvements. The new principal is fostering a collaborative approach to the continuous improvement of the nursery provision through a culture of reflection and self-evaluation. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for continuous improvement are developed to focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Very 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 nursery school's progress in the minor areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

## **APPENDIX**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- During the visit the access to the building was not secure; the front door was ajar for a short period.
- The kitchen area needs to be secured at all times.
- The provision of unhealthy treats should be reviewed in line with a healthy school policy.
- The nursery needs to develop a care in the sun policy.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.