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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Mill Road Playgroup
Ballyclare**

April 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN MILL ROAD PLAYGROUP, BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM, BT39 9DY (3AB-0249)

The inspection in October 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the centre, the staff's relationships with the children and the lengthy period of uninterrupted play which supports the children's freely chosen activity and promotes settled play. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to develop further the planning and assessment methods;
- the need to develop an appropriate policy and strategies for supporting those children identified as having special educational needs; and
- the need to provide the children with better opportunities for physical play.

In the interval since the inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the pre-school centre have been implemented.

- New resources have been acquired for the physical play programme.
- The staff take the children into the Church for regular physical play sessions.
- The staff have introduced a format for planning physical play, which provides the opportunity for more detailed evaluations.
- The staff have designed a policy for children with special educational needs (SEN).
- The staff have accessed an extended training course on SEN.
- The staff have developed a detailed monthly newsletter to inform the parents about aspects of the programme.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (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 25 April 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in October 2006.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- All of the staff are involved in planning and evaluating the programme and their interactions are more effective in developing the learning potential within the play activities.
- The staff are more confident in planning the programme which ensures breadth and variety in the provision.

- The staff demonstrate a greater awareness of the learning to be promoted through the play activities and daily routines.
- The children in general, show a good level of confidence, independence and co-operation. There are many examples of concentrated and purposeful play when the children develop their own ideas.
- There are regular opportunities for the children to enjoy physical play sessions.
- The staff continue to be committed to developing further the work of the centre.

The area which need further improvement is:

- The staff have a made a good effort in implementing an appropriate system of assessing the children achievement. They have begun to make some relevant observations which they now need to link to their planning.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the pre-school centre to ensure that the improvements which are needed are implemented.

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