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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Millennium Integrated Pre-School Playgroup
Saintfield**

December 2007

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MILLENNIUM INTEGRATED PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, SAINTFIELD, BALLYNAHINCH, CO DOWN, BT24 7HF (4BB-0510)

The original inspection in May 2005 highlighted strengths in the organisation of the day and the development of the children's language skills and early mathematical awareness. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning of the pre-school programme;
- the arrangements for monitoring, recording and reporting the children's progress; and
- the development of the staff's skills to identify and meet the children's special educational needs (SEN).

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

- A new leader was appointed and took up post in September 2005.
- An additional member of staff was appointed and took up post in September 2005.
- The new leader acted as the centre's early years specialist (EYS) for a short period.
- The group liaised with the adjoining primary school and received support in drawing up a SEN policy.
- The management group provided the staff with some additional time to work on the areas for improvement.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits to the pre-school centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 6 December 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the monitoring visits in May 2006 and April 2007.

The staff of the pre-school centre have begun to draw up a development plan for the centre. The plan should be adjusted to take account of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection:

- the new leader has worked hard to address the areas for improvement;
- the planning is more focused on the adults' role, the learning to be promoted and the variety of learning experiences for the children across all areas of the pre-school programme;
- a systematic method of observing, recording and reporting the children's progress has been developed;

- the staff have received support from a teacher in the primary school in beginning to draw up a SEN policy; and
- the management group have re-employed the services of an EYS to provide support and guidance to the staff.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- the staff need to continue to develop the methods of planning the programme and assessing the children's progress; and
- develop further the SEN policy and the staff's understanding of the children's differing needs is required.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. 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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