



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

**Moira Primary School Nursery Unit
County Down**

October 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MOIRA PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, MOIRA, COUNTY DOWN, BT67 0LJ (401-6104)

The original inspection of Moira Primary School Nursery Unit carried out in April 2013 concluded that, in most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in the nursery unit was satisfactory; the strengths outweighed the areas for improvement. The inspection identified areas for improvement in relation to leadership and management, learning and teaching and achievements and standards which needed to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the organisation of the day, use of resources, and daily routines to make more effective use of all time and space to bring about learning; and
- the methods of planning, assessment and evaluation to meet more effectively the needs of all of the children.

The Education and Training inspectorate (ETI) carried out two monitoring visits during 2014-15 with a follow-up inspection in October 2015.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a good quality and adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The school development plan was adjusted appropriately in light of the inspection findings.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following key actions and changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- there has been a change to the staffing arrangements in the nursery unit; there are now job-share arrangements in place for both the teachers and assistants within the nursery unit;
- the principal, senior leadership team (SLT) and curriculum leaders are more involved in the improvement process through regular monitoring and evaluation of the nursery units work;
- the nursery unit staff visited a number of other pre-school settings;
- the staff attended the Special Educational Needs Capacity Building training;
- the staff have developed a new format for planning and assessing the children's learning; and
- the staff have received very good professional development and support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services (CASS) of the Education Authority in a number of areas including governance, leadership and management.

Key Findings

- The children are very well settled for the time of year; their involvement in the play programme is good and they are being encouraged to be independent.

- The strategic leadership provided by the principal and SLT is effective and includes clear lines of communication and regular monitoring and evaluation of the nursery unit's work.
- There are a wider range of quality resources to support the development of an appropriate play programme; the staff enhance further the learning opportunities for the children through the use of real and authentic items to progress the children's learning, both indoors and outdoors.
- The review of the organisation of the daily routines: better use is being made of the necessary daily routines to ensure all time is used more effectively to promote learning.
- The development of the planning gives more focus to the learning inherent in the activities, and the children's responses to the play programme is used to inform future planning.
- The staff in the nursery unit have implemented to good effect the elements of the good practice they observed during their visits to other schools.
- The quality of learning and teaching evaluated during the follow-up process was of a good standard.

Overall effectiveness

The school has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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