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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

**Oakfield Primary School Nursery Unit
Carrickfergus**

March 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, CARRICKFERGUS, CO ANTRIM, BT38 9DE (301-6257)

Oakfield Primary School Nursery Unit was inspected in April 2006 as part of the focused inspection of Oakfield Primary School. The inspection of the nursery unit highlighted strengths in the attractive and well planned rooms, the effective support for children with special educational needs, the children's interest in books and stories and the good communication with the parents. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the staff need to take more account of the learning potential the activities provided, the wide range of the children's ability, and the information which is gleaned through the evaluations of the planning and the observations of the children's responses to the play activities; and
- the staff need to review the routines of the day so that the children are not required to wait for long periods of time between activities.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the nursery unit have taken place:

- the staff have devised and implemented new planning formats;
- support has been provided by officers from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Northern-Eastern Education and Library Board;
- the staff have benefited from visiting two other nursery schools; and
- the staff have attended relevant training in child protection, special educational needs, and communication and literacy development.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one interim follow-up inspection visit in March 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 14 March 2011.

The action plan produced by the nursery unit in response to the original inspection findings was of a good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection:

- a detailed audit of aspects of the nursery unit provision was carried out which led to the setting of important priorities for further improvement within the nursery unit;
- the development of systematic recording and well-focused evaluations of the children's learning which are beginning to support the planning and promote the children's progress;
- the monthly planning includes relevant detail and highlights the learning potential within each area of play; and
- the staff have reviewed and improved the organisation of each session and strategies have been introduced to promote efficient and smoother transitions.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is now good. The nursery unit 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 nursery unit has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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