

eti

*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

**Oldpark Nursery School
Belfast**

March 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN OLDPARK NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST BT14 6GN (111-6159)

The inspection in February 2006 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos of the school, the good relationships at all levels and the efforts made by the staff to create an interesting and attractive learning environment. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to improve the short-term planning methods and to ensure that the staff interactions are more consistent in extending the children's learning;
- to develop further the assessment methods; and
- to develop a clearer sense of leadership within the nursery to bring about improvement.

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

- The staff and governors have attended child protection training.
- The staff have participated in a range of relevant in-service training (INSET) and more focused whole staff training in school.
- The planning and assessment methods and formats have been revised and updated.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an inspection visit to the school as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 8 March 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in December 2006. The school development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings and clearly supports the work that has been undertaken.

The nursery school has made good progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- The revised planning formats provide more useful guidance for the staff in their interactions with the children.
- The planning is detailed and comprehensive; it identifies more clearly the role of the adult and the intended learning opportunities and effective account is now taken of the children's differing needs.
- A suitable system of assessment is being developed, based on the staff's observations of the children's responses during play; the children's records give appropriate indications of progress and the information is linked more clearly to the planning.
- The staff are more confident and skilful in planning and implementing a broad and balanced pre-school programme which progresses through the year.

- The staff interact skilfully with the children during play, making good use of the opportunities to promote language and learning.
- The staff regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the programme.
- The Principal has provided clear leadership in developing a culture of self-reflection among all the dedicated and hard-working staff and in the implementation of the relevant changes.
- The Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service officer is providing effective support and guidance to the staff.
- The approach adopted by the staff in developing aspects of the work of the nursery has been positive and professional.

As part of the follow-up inspection process, the nursery school conducted its own evaluation of the progress made in some aspects of the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The nursery submitted a self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate setting out its findings. The staff report that this process has been beneficial in developing aspects of their work.

The nursery school has made good progress in addressing the key areas for improvement during the original inspection. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the school's commitment to improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

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 or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.