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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

Playtime Playgroup
Eskra, Omagh

May 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN PLAYTIME PLAYGROUP, ESKRA, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 2RJ (2AB-0294)

The inspection in November 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the centre, and the skill of the staff in creating an attractive learning environment. It identified the need for improvement in the following key area:

- the need to develop further the methods used for monitoring and recording the children's learning, in order to ensure that the children's progress is clearly identified and that the information is used more consistently to inform the planning.

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

- The outdoor play area has been developed to provide a wider range of experiences for the children.
- The staff have attended a number of training courses, including curriculum planning, developing outdoor play and the ELKLAN Speech and Language programme.
- The centre has experienced several changes of early years specialist, although each specialist has provided valuable guidance and support.

The Education and Training 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 May 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in November 2006.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the management group.

- The short-term planning has been reviewed and modified to outline the learning to be promoted in each area of play. The plans are regularly evaluated and they include references to the needs and interests of specific children. The staff are beginning to take more account of the children's responses on a daily basis.
- The children's profiles now contain regular observations in all areas of the curriculum. The staff are beginning to make more confident assessments of the children's progress.
- The staff provide more effective support for those children with special educational needs. They have drafted appropriate support plans which are regularly evaluated and shared with the parents.

The pre-school centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

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