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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Rainbow Stop Playgroup
Markethill**

October 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN RAINBOW STOP PLAYGROUP, MARKETHILL, CO ARMAGH, BT60 1SD (5AB-0209)

The inspection in November 2004 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos, the good relationships, the organisation of the daily timetable and the satisfactory to good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the behaviour management strategies; and
- the planning of the educational programme.

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

- A new member of staff took up post in March 2007.
- The centre was relocated in temporary accommodation for approximately four months while a new mobile was erected on the original site. The new centre opened in June 2007 and is now fully operational.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an inspection visit to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 8 October 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in April 2007.

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

- The staff now implement fully the behaviour management policy and as a result the children are very well-behaved.
- The attractively presented and well organised environment helps to foster a settled climate for learning where the children's play is both purposeful and productive.
- Regular detailed observations of the children's responses to the activities are noted and used to inform the planning. The staff are aware of the children's differing needs and interests and take account of these when planning the educational programme.
- The staff have recently reviewed their planning format. There is a thematic approach to the planning which outlines a range of interesting and varied activities and experiences for the children. The staff are aware of the need to ensure progression and challenge in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The staff have developed an appropriate approach to self-evaluation. They have made good use of relevant guidance materials and there is evidence that the efforts made have improved parental links.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the centre's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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