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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

**Rhyme Times Playgroups
Lisburn**

January 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN RHYME TIMES PLAYGROUPS, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM BT28 8BN (4AB 0515)

The inspection in Rhyme Times Playgroups, Lisburn in April 2005 highlighted strengths in the presentation of the learning environment and the quality of the relationships between the staff and the children and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the implementation of the centre's behaviour management policy;
- the staff's ability to exploit the learning opportunities inherent in the planned activities; and
- the quality of the leadership and management and the time and resources for the development work required.

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

- A number of new staff have been employed.
- A new leader has been appointed to one of the groups.
- The centre's early years specialist provided training for the staff and the parents of the centre in order to ensure that a more consistent approach to managing the children's behaviour was implemented.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on the 11 January 2007.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- The centre's behaviour management policy has been reviewed; the staff now implement more consistently, appropriate methods that foster settled and purposeful play. The policy is now shared with the parents prior to the children attending the centre.
- The management committee has provided additional time to allow all of the staff to plan together as a team to develop further the work of the centre.
- Some of the staff have attended additional training courses for special educational needs. During the inspection, there was evidence that the training is having a positive influence on the work of the centre.

- The staff's involvement with the children is more effective in generating and sustaining the children's interest in the activities, and promoting a range of learning.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- the organisation of the snack routine and the transition from the playgroup to the activity hall in order to ensure that the children do not wait for lengthy periods and that all time is used more effectively for learning; and
- the provision of appropriate training and development, in order to build upon the leadership and management skills already acquired and to ensure the continued development of the work of the centre.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the pre-school centre to ensure that the improvements which are needed are implemented.

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