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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

**Roe Valley Community Playgroup
Limavady**

June 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ROE VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, LIMAVADY, CO LONDONDERRY. BT49 0BB (2AB-0532)

The original inspection in November 2006 and the subsequent follow-up inspection in October 2008 highlighted strengths in the caring, supportive atmosphere and the developing good links established with the parents and the wider community. The need for improvement was identified in the following areas:

- the programme of physical play;
- the organisation of the day;
- time for the collaborative work to develop the planning and the assessment methods;
- the evaluation of the quality of the children's experiences and the developing programme;
- training for the promotion of the children's concentrated play, language and thinking; and
- the development of the leadership and management.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place.

- A new extension has been built; this provides additional space for storytime and play activities, office accommodation for staff meetings and new toilets off the playroom for the children.
- The early years specialist has focused on the needs of the staff and supported the development of their interaction skills.
- The Western Education Support Team has worked closely with the staff and as a result the staff are effectively building their capacity to support the children's individual needs.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a second follow-up inspection on 7 June 2010.

The playgroup has a development plan which was adjusted in light of the previous follow-up inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the original and follow-up inspections.

- The staff have improved the playgroup provision and has development plans in progress to make effective use of outdoor space to provide more appropriate outdoor physical play.
- The planning and assessment methods focus more directly on the children's learning outcomes and the progression they make throughout the year.

- There are many instances of good quality staff interaction which sustain the children's interest in their play and extend their thinking and understanding.
- The organisation of the day is good and makes effective use of transitional routines for developing the children's social skills and mathematical learning; for example, during the snack-time, the children are well-mannered, independent and co-operative.
- The leader is in post three years and is a good role-model in the playroom; she has engendered a good team-spirit among the staff, all of whom have remained in post over the past two years.

This follow-up inspection identified the following areas for improvement.

- The leadership and management need to ensure that risk assessments are conducted throughout the development of the outdoor provision.
- The staff need to develop further their self-evaluation processes in order to effect continuous improvement.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this playgroup is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The playgroup has demonstrated evidence of improvement but significant areas for improvement in learning and teaching, and leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor the playgroup's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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