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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

**St Bernadette's Playgroup
Derry**

October 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN ST BERNADETTE'S PLAYGROUP, HAZELBANK, DERRY, BT48 0RH (2BB-0040)

The inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the organisation of the sessions and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planned programme should be better matched to the needs and interests of the children;
- the staff should provide the parents with more information about the work of the centre; and
- the centre's early years specialist (EYS) should provide more effective support and guidance in helping the staff to identify priorities for development and improvement.

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

- The children in the morning and afternoon sessions have been grouped according to age.
- The staff meet regularly to plan and evaluate the programme.
- The EYS has extended the duration of her visits to the centre.
- Additional resources have been accessed for outdoor play and to promote cultural diversity.
- Two members of staff have undertaken ELKLAN training to support children with speech and language difficulties.
- The parents have helped to fundraise to extend the outdoor provision.

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 18 October 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visits in February 2007.

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

- The planning formats have been adapted to cover the six areas of the pre-school curriculum. The monthly plans are now differentiated to address the age, needs and interests of the children. The weekly plans now identify appropriately the learning potential within the play activities and the adults' role is clearly defined. The planning is now more effective in guiding the staff in their interactions with the children.

- The links with the parents have been improved; the parents now receive a copy of the centre's child protection policy and procedures. The staff have also developed a broad-range of methods to inform the parents about their children's learning and to involve them in the work of the centre.
- The level of support provided by the EYS each month now meets the requirements of the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme. She provides the staff with regular and valuable feedback on aspects of their practice and is helping them to identify appropriate areas for review and improvement.

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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