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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

St Colmcille's Pre-School Playgroup
Belfast

November 2006

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN ST COLMCILLE'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, BELFAST BT5 6EA (1AB-0306)

The inspection in February 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the care provided by the staff for the children and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the staff interaction to promote learning and settled play;
- the written planning; and
- the organisation of outdoor play.

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

- The staff have attended some relevant training.
- Two members of staff have completed childcare and education qualifications.
- The centre's early years specialist has provided additional support within the centre.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit on the 29 November 2006.

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

- The staff are more consistent in implementing the centre's behaviour management policy and in promoting settled and purposeful play. They are alert to those children who still require support to develop their concentration and social skills and are quick to provide appropriate interventions.
- The staff have been allocated additional hours to plan and evaluate the programme together. The written planning identifies more clearly the learning potential of activities and is being implemented more effectively by the staff. As a result there is an improvement in the quality of the children's overall learning experiences and in particular improved promotion of the children's social skills, listening skills and early mathematical language and ideas.
- The children are provided with more regular opportunities for outdoor play. The additional resources and improved organisation of these outdoor sessions are contributing to more purposeful play. The management and staff report plans to develop and improve further the provision for outdoor play.

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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