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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Oliver Plunkett Pre-School Playgroup
Belfast**

December 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN ST OLIVER PLUNKETT PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, BELFAST, BT11 8AY (1BB-0322)

The inspection in February 2006 highlighted strengths in the quality of the learning environment and in much of the involvement of the staff with the children. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key area:

- the use of assessment information when planning and implementing the programme in order to meet the children's differing needs.

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

- a new leader and assistant were appointed, both took up post in September 2007;
- the number of funded pre-school children has increased from six to 21;
- the staff have attended a range of appropriate training courses;
- the leader has developed handbooks for staff and any students on placement; and
- regular music sessions have been introduced, using funding from a community grant.

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 Tuesday, 11 December 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in September 2007.

The pre-school centre has a development plan. It has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- The staff identify more clearly on their written planning sheets any additional support required for individual children. In addition, the leader liaises with relevant professionals and parents when appropriate to support individual children's needs.
- The new handbooks provide useful guidelines for students and staff.
- The children have better opportunities for singing and music-making.
- The work with parents is being developed effectively to involve them more closely in the work of the centre and their own children's education.

The area which needs further improvement is:

- the continued development of the staff's confidence and skill in managing their assessment methods.

Since the inspection, the early years specialist has worked with the staff to evaluate the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. A useful audit of some other aspects of the provision has been carried out.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period is contributing to the improvements being made, and has helped the pre-school centre identify appropriately its priorities for future development.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but a minor area still requires improvement. The organisation is developing a process of self-evaluation which is contributing to improvement.

The pre-school centre's progress in the minor area for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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