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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

St Patrick's Primary School Nursery Unit
Castleberg

April 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, CASTLEDERG, CO TYRONE BT81 7EE (203-6094)

The inspection in St Patrick's Primary School Nursery Unit, Castlederg in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the welcoming atmosphere and excellent relationships at all levels including the supportive leadership from the Principal, the hard-working teacher and staff; it identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the planning and assessment strategies to identify progression in learning and to take account of the children's differing needs.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the nursery unit has taken place:

- the development of new weekly planners to guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children and the introduction of assessment profiles of the children's progress in learning;
- the closer monitoring of the children during their play and the recording of useful information by all the staff to assist the planning for progression in the children's development and learning;
- the opportunity to visit another pre-school centre and to link with foundation stage staff in the primary school;
- the rearrangement of areas of learning to maximise the use of all the space for learning;
- the further development of the team-work to support the children with differing needs; and
- the addition of new resources and activities which support the staff in their work as they promote progression in the children's learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the nursery unit as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 16 April 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the monitoring visits in October 2007 and March 2008.

The nursery unit is included as a priority in the school development plan and the nursery teacher has worked closely with the Principal and school staff in the development and effective implementation of an action plan to guide the identified areas of improvement.

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

- The staff and management implement and keep under review the revised planning and assessment strategies to guide the effective progression in the children's learning and experiences.
- The levels of staff interaction have developed through the shared involvement with the children in their activities and as a result there are increased opportunities to learn through play.

- The staff are effectively developing profiles of the children's progress; they record information based on observations made of the children's responses to activities and use the assessments to plan for additional progress in learning according to the needs of the individual children.

Since the inspection, the nursery unit has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Good progress has been made in the area for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the nursery unit's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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