



*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

**St Peter's Playgroup
Moy, Dungannon**

March 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP, MOY, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT71 6SW (5BB-0334)

The original inspection in St Peter's Playgroup, Moy, Dungannon in March 2007 highlighted strengths in the friendly, welcoming atmosphere within the centre, the caring and supportive staff, the inviting learning environment and the satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. In addition, the inspection acknowledged the useful planning methods and the good communication with parents.

The inspection evaluated the performance as satisfactory and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- aspects of the daily routine;
- the interaction between the staff and the children; and
- the approach of the staff to observing and recording evidence of the children's progress, particularly in relation to those children with special educational needs.

Two subsequent visits from the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) in October 2008 and June 2009 evaluated the progress as inadequate and identified the need for the staff to:

- create a more stimulating environment;
- review and improve the daily routine;
- ensure that their interactions with the children are more effective in extending the children's play and thinking; and
- work and plan together on a regular basis in order to:
 - i. ensure that they have a shared understanding of the expected learning outcomes for the children;
 - ii. guide more effectively their day-to-day work with the children;
 - iii. promote progression in the children's learning; and
 - iv. improve the quality of provision in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum.

In August 2009, the Department of Education wrote to the Chairperson of the Management Committee and requested that an action plan be submitted to the Head of Early Years in the Department of Education outlining the steps being taken to address the issues identified including the support from the Early Years Specialist and the procedures for evaluating the outcomes for the children.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality.

In the interval since the monitoring visit in June 2009 the following action which affects the work of the playgroup has taken place:

- the playgroup has been relocated in purpose-built premises;
- the staff have received extensive, well-focused support from the early years specialist and the Health and Social Care Trust;
- the leader has been allocated an additional ten hours per week to assist with planning and the management of the playgroup;
- the staff have dedicated time for planning each week;

- the committee has established procedures for monitoring the staff's attendance and time-keeping and the standards of cleanliness, health and hygiene within the playgroup; and
- the committee has set up an appraisal system whereby they meet with the leader and members of staff bi-annually.

The Inspectorate carried out a further monitoring visit in December 2009 and a follow-up inspection (FUI) on 18 March 2010.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- there is a stimulating, literacy rich environment which promotes the children's independence, creativity and language development;
- the planned activities, routines and incidental opportunities are used effectively to promote the children's learning;
- during the most recent monitoring visit and the FUI, there were many examples of sustained, purposeful play;
- during the most recent monitoring visit and the FUI, the staff interactions with the children were of a consistently high quality;
- there are good to very good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- the planning for the children's learning in the short and longer term is now good;
- the short-term planning is being used effectively to guide the staff's daily work with the children;
- the staff are recording significant and appropriate observations of the children's responses and using them to inform future planning; and
- the staff now demonstrate a good understanding of the pre-school curriculum.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement. The District Inspector will maintain contact with the centre in the normal way, to monitor progress.

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