



*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**

**The Academy Nursery School  
Londonderry**

**December 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE ACADEMY NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY, BT48 7LE (211-6023)**

The inspection in April 2008 highlighted strengths in the child-centred approaches to learning, the caring staff and the instances of good quality play and learning. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning and assessment methods to meet more effectively the children's individual needs; and
- the self-evaluation process and action-planning for improvement in learning for all the children.

**In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the nursery school have taken place.**

- The Extended School initiative has provided additional funding which has facilitated the introduction of a programme to upskill parent volunteers to interact more effectively with the children.
- The SureStart programme facilitates the services of their speech therapist to train the nursery staff in the early identification and prevention of speech, social and communication difficulties.
- The team has benefitted from the shared practice gained through networking with other nursery school staff and through membership of a professional nursery school organisation.
- The Western Education and Library Board (WELB) Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) has provided the Principal with some guidance on leading the school development planning process and action-planning for improvement.
- The nursery school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 1 December 2009. The action plan produced by the nursery school in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

**The following are the most important improvements since the inspection in 2008:**

- The Principal has developed a more coherent, reflective and team approach to action planning for improvement.
- The nursery is effectively signposting the parents to the SureStart services in the local area to access support to address the barriers in learning experienced by some children in communication, socialisation, language development and identified special needs.

- The programme provided in the nursery by the speech therapist is helping the staff identify specific language delay, including attention and listening difficulties; the staff are at an early stage in modelling the new skills needed to address these children's difficulties within the day-to-day planning for the children.
- The "ChatterPacks" programme developed by the SureStart speech therapist is available for all the children and the staff actively encourage the use of books and games within the daily activities and in the home; as a result of these changes, the children turn readily to books, enjoy the stories and talking about the pictures.
- The children's responses to the daily activities are more appropriately recorded and their progress reported more effectively to the parents to enable them to become involved in early intervention strategies to improve the children's outcomes.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the nursery school is now good. The nursery school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the nursery school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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