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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Thrushfield Nursery School
Parkgate, Templepatrick**

February 2008

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN THRUSHFIELD NURSERY SCHOOL, PARKGATE, TEMPLEPATRICK, CO ANTRIM, BT39 0DG (3CA-0265)

The inspection in January 2007 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the centre and the quality of the learning environment and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the use of time for learning in the latter part of the session;
- the development of the children's independence and thinking skills; and
- the methods used to assess the children's progress.

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

- there have been some staffing changes and a new assistant was appointed and took up post in November 2007;
- the outdoor play areas have been further developed and resourced;
- additional resources have been acquired for physical play;
- the staff have attended training in supporting children with special educational needs and have accessed several appropriate courses in relation to adult interactions and children's physical development; and
- the centre's policies on special educational needs and behaviour management have been updated.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an inspection visit to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 28 February 2008.

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

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the Manager:

- the organisation of the daily routine now provides appropriate time for music and story sessions and a greater range of experiences in the outdoor play areas;
- the activities in the latter part of the session are carefully managed to meet the needs, interests and stage of development of the children;
- the manager carries out regular observations of the staff's interactions with the children and provides the staff with sensitive and valuable feedback;

- the interactions between the staff and the children are now consistently effective in promoting the children's independence and extending their thinking skills; and
- the staff use their observations of the children's progress and development more effectively to inform the weekly planning in order to meet the needs and interests of the children.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre has evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

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

Excellent progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the pre-school centre's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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