



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Tiny Tots Pre-School Centre
Toomebridge**

November 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TINY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM (3AB-0371)

The inspection in January 2007 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the pre-school centre and the commitment and dedication of the staff, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the daily routines and the use of time for learning; and
- the staff's understanding of the links between planning and assessment and how they might plan to meet the needs of individual children.

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

- a new leader was appointed and took up post in January 2008;
- a new assistant was appointed and took up post in September 2008;
- the staff have identified the deputy designated staff member and the management group member with responsibility for child protection;
- the staff have accessed training in special educational needs (SEN) and in undertaking planning and observations;
- additional resources for physical play have been acquired; and
- the centre has received regular and focused support from its early years specialist.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (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 19 November 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visits in February 2008 and September 2008.

The centre has a development plan which covered the period 2003-2008. It was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan should now be updated to identify the priorities for self-evaluation and improvement over the next planning period.

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

- The organisation of the daily session has been reviewed and improved. The children now experience a longer period of uninterrupted play and transitions from free play to adult-led activities are smoother. The daily routines are now well managed and unobtrusive. The layout of the playroom has been improved and the children now have access to a wider range of resources and activities.
- The written planning is more comprehensive and detailed. The monthly plan outlines themes and topics and the learning to be developed across all areas of the curriculum. The short-term planning focuses on the learning potential within the play activities and reflects the needs and interest of individuals and small groups.
- The staff operate a key worker system and are making regular observations of the children's responses to their play.

- The staff have worked hard to meet the needs of those children with particular educational needs. A very comprehensive audit of special needs provision has been carried out and a policy for SEN has been agreed. Detailed educational plans have been drafted and shared with the parents and there is evidence that the children are making progress.

The minor area which needs further improvement is as follows:

- The staff are aware of the need to use the information gained from their observations to make assessments of the children's learning and development, based on their monthly plans.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre 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.

Very good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this centre is now good. The centre 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 centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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