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*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Treehouse Kindergarten
Omagh**

February 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TREEHOUSE KINDERGARTEN, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 0NB (2CA-0030)

The inspection in May 2007 highlighted strengths in the pre-school centre's welcoming atmosphere and the leadership and teamwork to provide the satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to implement more consistently the behaviour management policy to promote settled, safe and concentrated play; and
- to develop a more systematic and comprehensive method of assessing and recording the children's progress and development and to link the findings to the planning for additional needs.

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

- a new early years specialist (EYS) has been employed to assist the staff in their work and they have worked very hard to implement all of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection;
- the cluster group meetings have helped the staff to develop a shared understanding of planning and assessment methods to meet the additional needs of children; and
- the staff have worked well as a team under the effective leadership of the proprietor and EYS to develop a shared understanding of the promotion and implementation of positive behaviour management strategies.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 25 February 2009.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality.

The pre-school centre has created a written development plan in light of the inspection findings.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the methods of assessment and the planning of the programme have been reviewed and modified appropriately to ensure that the additional learning needs of the children are identified and effectively met;
- the behaviour management policy has been revised to support staff in implementing appropriately positive strategies based on children's choice and a promotion of their sense of responsibility; and

- the staff keep detailed individual play plans for children with additional needs and record the children's progress and development; the information is used to inform the planning of the programme and is shared with the parents.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre evaluated 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 significantly to the improvement made, and helped the pre-school centre identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through self-evaluation, the centre demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre 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.

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