



*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

**Dromintee and Jonesboro Pre-School Playgroup
Newry**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DROMINTEE AND JONESBORO PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT35 8TA (5AB-0550)

The inspection of Dromintee and Jonesboro Playgroup in November 2009 highlighted strengths such; as the welcoming and friendly ethos; the good working relationships at all levels and the committed staff who work well together as a team. In addition, the inspection team noted the examples of good staff interaction with the children; the effective use of the activities and routines to promote and support the children's learning; and the interesting and varied range of activities across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum.

The inspection also identified the following areas for improvement:

- to review the policies to ensure clear and consistent information for staff and parents particularly in relation to child protection and assessment;
- to develop further the planning and assessment methods to ensure that observations inform future planning and that there is progression in the children's learning; and
- to develop further the self-evaluation and development planning processes in order to guide and support future improvements.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- The child protection policies have been updated and information regarding the designated person and deputy-designated person for child protection is now clearly displayed for the parents to read;
- the staff have undertaken appropriate cluster group, centre-based and external training in aspects of provision such as child protection and safeguarding, first-aid and linking planning with observations and assessments.
- the staff have reviewed the procedures for observation and planning; and
- the playgroup has, within the last twelve months, received well-focused support from the early years specialist (EYS) from the early years organisation (EYO).

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits (IFUVs) in October and December 2011 and a follow-up inspection (FUI) on 8 June 2012.

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

The playgroup's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

At the time of the IFUVs, the playgroup leader and staff were informed that there had not been sufficient progress in addressing the areas identified for improvement at the time of the inspection and that, in a number of key areas, the quality of the provision had deteriorated. The staff and the EYS were informed of the necessary actions required to bring about the sustained improvement in the quality of the provision.

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

- there is a well-organised, purposeful learning environment with a good range of activities to stimulate the children's interests and to support their learning;
- the adult interactions with the children are now consistently good or very good;

- the daily snack routines are used more effectively to promote good hygiene practices, to foster the children's independence and to develop their social skills,
- there are agreed strategies to promote positive behaviour and behaviour modification and these are implemented consistently by all staff;
- the staff engage effectively with a range of educational and medical professionals in order to support those children who have additional needs;
- the procedures for child protection and safeguarding are shared with the parents and are displayed on the parent notice-board;
- the planning focuses more specifically on the learning potential inherent within the planned activities; and
- there are more consistent, coherent procedures in place for observing, assessing and informing planning.

An area for improvement is the need to:

- continue to develop the self-evaluation and development planning processes in order to ensure continued and sustained improvement in the quality of the playgroup's provision.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now good. The playgroup has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement which the playgroup has demonstrated its capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the playgroup's progress on the area for improvement.

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