



*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

**Grove Community Playgroup
Lisburn**

November 2011

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GROVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 1ST (4AB-0145)

The inspection in Grove Community Playgroup in February 2010 highlighted strengths in the caring support provided by the staff, which helps the children settle and which promotes their confidence and independence in play; the good efforts made by the staff to improve the layout of the playroom and ensure a broad range of activities for the children; the quality of the children's oral language and listening skills; and the management of the new leader and the developing team-approach to curricular development.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the planning and assessment methods to ensure that there is progression and challenge in the pre-school programme, throughout the year, in order to meet the children's individual needs.

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

- the staff have reviewed and redesigned the planning to include more appropriate detail regarding the weekly learning objectives and the adult role in the development of the children's learning activities;
- the staff's weekly evaluations of the play focus more fully on the intended learning and the children's responses;
- the staff have extended the opportunities for the children to develop their imagination and creativity, in particular, through creative activities and music;
- the leader of the playgroup and the staff have visited other pre-school settings to view practice in order to promote further the team's professional development and reflection; and
- the staff have had very good, well-focused support from the temporary early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation (EYO).

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits (IFUV) and a follow-up inspection on 24 November 2011.

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.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the children now develop their creativity through the very good opportunities to explore and experiment with different materials and tools;
- the staff 's revised approach to planning identifies appropriate progression in the learning, indicates more clearly the role of the adult and the intended learning outcomes for the children;

- the staff use systematic assessment methods which are meaningful and help them identify more effectively the children's learning needs;
- the staff's interactions with the children are consistently of a good quality and, at times, of a very good quality; and
- the playgroup leader now provides very good leadership which is developing the staff's capabilities to implement effectively the changes to the provision.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The playgroup 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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