



*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**

**Tiny Tots Playgroup  
Cookstown**

**October 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TINY TOTS PLAYGROUP, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE, BT80 9NT (5AB-0208)**

The inspection in Tiny Tots Playgroup in April 2010 highlighted strengths in the caring, well-organised learning environment; the very good resources to support learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum; and the good opportunities for the development of the children's creative, personal and social skills and their understanding of the world around them.

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

- to develop a more systematic approach to planning, assessment and recording in order to make more effective use of the observations to assess the children's progress and to inform future planning; and
- to further develop the self-evaluation process in order to identify key priorities for improvement.

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

- the playgroup has had a period of disruption due to the new building programme. It had to be relocated in temporary accommodation for most of the last academic year and has now been re-established in new purpose-built accommodation on the original site;
- the staff have all undertaken appropriate training in child protection and first aid;
- the staff have had effective support and staff development from the Barnardo's Speech and Language therapist and two members of the staff are currently undertaking training in the Eiklan Language Programme;
- the staff have attended cluster group training focused on effective provision for outdoor play; and
- the staff have had very good, well-focused support from the early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation since May 2011.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 27 October 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:

- there is a more systematic and integrated approach to planning and assessment; the staff make very good use of the planned and spontaneous learning activities to respond to individual children's interests and needs;

- the staff make effective use of observations to assess the children's progress, to identify individual children's needs and to create more challenge and progression in the children's learning;
- the quality of the adult interactions with the children is consistently good and, in many instances, it is very good;
- the children make very good use of photographs and books throughout the playroom for information, enjoyment and pictorial instructions;
- the children have extended periods of purposeful outdoor play; and
- there are effective self-evaluation processes in place which enable the staff to evaluate the quality of the provision and to identify key priorities for the playgroup's continued development.

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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