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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**



## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Windmill Playgroup  
Newry**

**November 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF WINDMILL PLAYGROUP, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 1HE (5AB-0506)**

The inspection in Windmill Playgroup in June 2010 highlighted strengths in the playgroup's friendly ethos; the very good working relationships between the staff and the parents; the attractively presented learning environment; the varied programme provided for the children and the hard-working and committed staff.

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

- the implementation of more effective behaviour management strategies for the children who display challenging behaviour; and
- the need to review aspects of the daily timetable to ensure that the differing needs of all the children are met and that all the allocated time is used more effectively to promote learning.

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

- a new member of staff has been appointed;
- the staff have attended cluster group training focused on linking observations to planning and on the development of behaviour management strategies;
- the playgroup now has access to the adjoining community football pitch for outdoor play;
- the staff have developed further their understanding of early years provision by visiting other pre-school centres; and
- the staff have had inconsistent support from the Early Years Organisation since the time of the original inspection.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 16 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 procedures for the intimate care of the children are documented clearly and shared with the parents;
- the staff are implementing a few appropriate strategies to promote positive behaviour and behaviour modification; they have also agreed procedures for managing conflict resolution between the children;
- the daily snack routines have been reviewed and are now more effective in supporting the development of the children's independence and self management skills;

- the transitions and physical play sessions are well-organised and more supportive of the children's learning;
- there are good opportunities for the children to develop and express their individual creativity through, for example, junk art activities and music making; and
- the staff are beginning to use the observations of the children at play to inform planning for individuals and small groups.

An area for improvement is the need to:

- review elements of the daily routine to ensure a more appropriate balance between free-play and adult-led activities and to ensure that all the time available is used for learning.

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 Inspectorate will monitor the playgroup's progress on the area for improvement.

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