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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Bangor Central Nursery School Co Down

May 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION IN BANGOR CENTRAL NURSERY SCHOOL, CO DOWN, BT20 4ST (411-0029)

The inspection in Bangor Central Nursery school in November 2005 highlighted strengths in the nursery school's ethos and the communication with the parents and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- planning for the educational programme and improvement in the quality of the staff's interaction with the children;
- the development of the children's early mathematical skills; and
- the daily timetable to make more effective use of all time available for learning and provide the children with more opportunities for free choice in their play activities.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the nursery school has taken place.

- A new principal was appointed and took up post in September 2007.
- New furniture was purchased for the playrooms.
- The designated teacher attended child protection training.
- The policy for child protection has been reviewed and shared with the parents.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the nursery school as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 9 May 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in May 2007.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the governors.

- The staff have reviewed the planning for the educational programme and have developed some interesting themes and topics which offer variety in the children's learning.
- During the follow-up inspection, there were several occasions when the staff used appropriate questioning to encourage the children to think and to develop their ideas.
- There is better promotion of the children's early mathematical ideas through the play programme and a range of mathematical games.
- Better use is made of the children's own art work to create colourful displays throughout the nursery school.

- The nursery school's educational programme now provides satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The review of the daily timetable provides more effective use of time for learning, in particular there are better opportunities for the children to develop language skills through more appropriate small group story sessions.

The area which needs further improvement is:

- the written planning needs to be developed further in order to identify more clearly the learning potential of all of the activities and to indicate how the staff will bring about progression in the children's learning.

Satisfactory progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but some areas still require improvement. The nursery school has begun to develop a process of self-evaluation to lead to improvement.

The nursery school's progress in the area for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

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