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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

**Bees Nees Early Years Centre
Newtownards**

June 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BEES NEES EARLY YEARS CENTRE, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN, BT23 4HS (4AB-0433)

The inspection of Bees Nees Early Years Centre in November 2007 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos, the good communication with the parents, the many instances of concentrated play, the satisfactory or good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum and the team-spirit among the hard-working staff. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the methods of assessing the children's progress and the use of the information to inform the planning to ensure that the children's differing needs are met;
- the planning for the period of free play in order to guide the staff more effectively in their work with the children; and
- the need to develop further the centre's Special Educational Needs Policy.

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

- a new leader was appointed and took up post in September 2009;
- there have been several staff changes;
- the centre no longer uses the High Scope methodologies to deliver the programme;
- the staff have visited a number of other pre-school settings to observe different approaches to delivering the pre-school programme; and
- a new early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation (EYO) is supporting the staff in their work.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in May 2009 which indicated that limited progress had been made in the areas for improvement. The inspection team carried out a follow-up inspection on 8 June 2010.

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

The centre's development plan is of a good quality and is supported by appropriate action plans. Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

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

- the new leader, supported by all of the staff and the management group, has implemented many important improvements in the centre's provision;
- a new comprehensive format of long-, medium- and short-term planning has been developed. The planning highlights more effectively the learning to be promoted in all the areas of the pre-school programme and guides the staff more effectively in their day-to-day work with the children;

- the staff interactions are more effective in promoting settled and purposeful play from the children during the free play session;
- the staff now implement more effective behaviour management strategies; and
- a policy for special educational needs has been developed; the staff liaise regularly with the parents and other professional agencies regarding the needs of individual children. Individual educational plans, with appropriate targets, have been developed to support these children.

The new leader has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed further to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

The follow-up inspection identified an area for improvement. The following is the most important area that needs attention.

- Continue to develop the assessment methods and use the information to inform the planning in order to meet the children's differing needs.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school centre is now good. The centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally, under the new leadership, the centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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