

**eti**

*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

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

**Castlewellan Community Playgroup  
Co Down**

**June 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF CASTLEWELLAN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT31 9DX (4AB-0435)**

The inspection of Castlewellan Community Playgroup in November 2007 highlighted strengths in the caring staff; the good working relationships between the staff and the children; the satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school programme; the efforts made to identify and meet the needs of those children who require additional support with aspects of their learning; and the developing sense of team-spirit among the hard-working staff who co-operate effectively in the day-to-day running of the centre.

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

- the staff need to develop their planning and assessment to ensure that the learning potential of all the activities is exploited more fully, that the experiences provided for the children become steadily more challenging over the year, and that the children's differing needs are met;
- the staff need to ensure that the quality of their interaction with the children promotes learning more effectively; and
- the staff should review the organisation of the latter part of the day in order to ensure that all the available time is used to promote learning.

### **In the interval since the inspection, the following action, which affects the work of the pre-school centre, has taken place:**

- the staff development has focused on planning and assessment methodologies; and
- the staff have reviewed the organisation of the children's daily timetable to maximise the learning opportunities within the play activities.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out one monitoring visit and a follow-up inspection took place on 18 June 2009.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality. The pre-school centre's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The pre-school centre has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

### **The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:**

- the staff are using more appropriate behaviour management strategies by engaging the children in more purposeful play;
- the opportunities provided during indoor play promote greater choice and challenge in the children's learning experiences;

- the short-term planning identifies clearly the appropriate learning potential of the play-based learning;
- the planning indicates suitable progression across all aspects of the pre-school curriculum; and
- the assessment methodologies are consistent and inform appropriately the planning and the progress records of the children in the pre-school centre.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre 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 to focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.