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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

**Coagh Playgroup
Cookstown**

February 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF COAGH PLAYGROUP, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE, BT80 0BR (5AA-0539)

The inspection of Coagh Playgroup in 2007 highlighted strengths in the very positive ethos, the smooth organisation of the play session, the satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum and the progress made by the staff in developing the written planning and the methods of assessing the children's progress. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to ensure that the staff interactions are more effective in extending the children's thinking and learning; and
- to develop opportunities, particularly in the outdoor area, to enrich the children's experiences of the world around them.

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

- the Leader has undertaken training on provision for children with additional needs;
- the assistant Leader has begun a degree course in child care;
- all the full-time staff have completed First Aid training;
- the staff have developed their understanding of outdoor play provision through personal research and by visiting other pre-school centres;
- the outdoor play area has been developed to create opportunities for the children to observe and engage with the world around them;
- additional finance has been committed for the provision of additional resources; and
- the staff have received regular and effective support from the early years specialist.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 2 February 2010.

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

The process of self-evaluation and development planning is at an early stage. The staff have appropriately identified this as a priority for development.

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

- the staff have reviewed the lay-out of the playroom to ensure that all the available space is used effectively to promote sustained, purposeful play;
- books are displayed effectively within each area of the playroom to stimulate the children's interest, to develop pre-reading skills and to promote their enjoyment of reading;

- the children are developing their understanding of the world around them through observation of the local environment and increased opportunities to explore the properties of common materials; and
- the staff are developing open-questioning techniques and they are becoming more effective in building on the children's needs and interests.

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 provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the playgroup has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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