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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Glenn and Barr Playgroup
Jerrettspass, Newry**

May 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN GLENN AND BARR PLAYGROUP, JERRETTSPASS, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 1NU (5AB 0212)

The inspection in November 2004 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos, the satisfactory or good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school programme and the good links with the parents, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the methods of planning and assessment;
- the resources for energetic physical play; and
- the promotion of early mathematical ideas.

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

- Additional funding was secured and used to purchase new resources for the development of the physical play programme and early mathematical experiences for the children.
- The organisation of the daily timetable was reviewed and some changes implemented to provide a greater variety of activities in the daily programme.
- The staff have focused on progression in the play activities and now provide a more appropriately challenging programme to meet the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an inspection visit to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 24 May 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in April 2007.

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

- Regular observations of the children's responses to play are noted by the staff and used to build up an accurate profile of each child's progress and development. The information is shared with the parents and used to inform the planning.
- The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is consistently of a high standard. During the follow-up inspection there were many examples when the staff interacted in a caring and supportive manner to promote the children's language and learning and to meet their individual needs. The staff are skilful in using opportunities to promote the children's mathematical awareness and understanding in the activities.
- There is a varied range of resources available for the development of physical play, however, the development of the physical play programme is greatly restricted by the size of the outdoor play area.

- The staff have designed an interesting and varied programme for the children and use the observations effectively to meet the individual needs of some of the children and to inform future learning. The staff should now focus more clearly on the content of the written planning and, in particular, on the learning potential of the planned activities.

The pre-school centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

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