

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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Glenravel Community Playgroup
Ballymena**

February 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GLENRAVEL COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, MARTINSTOWN, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT43 6QH (3AB-0362)

The inspection in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the stimulating and attractive learning environment, the children's high levels of concentrated and productive play and the developing team approach. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the planning and assessment methods; and
- to ensure greater consistency in the staff's interactions with the children.

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

- the playgroup has moved into new purpose-built accommodation within the Glenravel Community Sports Complex;
- the staff have attended some relevant training in child observation, child development, and planning a physical play programme;
- the playgroup's planning and assessment methods have been reviewed and appropriately adapted;
- additional resources have been acquired to augment the children's physical play experiences; and
- the leader, ably supported by all the staff and the management committee has worked hard to bring about significant improvements in the quality of the children's learning experiences and in the plans for and the move to the new premises.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one interim monitoring visit in March 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 24 February 2010.

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

The playgroup has a development plan, which was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is now of a higher quality;
- the children's language skills are well developed and they display good levels of confidence, independence and creativity;
- more appropriate and effective systems of planning the programme and monitoring the children's progress have been developed;
- the new premises provide a more attractive and stimulating learning environment for the children both indoors and outdoors; and

- the children are gaining appropriate physical skills and use a greater variety of equipment with confidence since the introduction of physical play stations.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

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 ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

