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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**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

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

#### **Killyleagh Early Years Playgroup Co Down**

**January 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILLYLEAGH EARLY YEARS PLAYGROUP, DOWNPATRICK, CO DOWN, BT30 9QE (4AB-0376)**

The inspection in April 2007 highlighted strengths in the daily routine, the reading of informal stories to groups of children throughout the session, the displaying of the children's art work, and examples of useful support from the staff when they engage in discussions with the children.

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

- to review urgently and implement consistently the pre-school centre's behaviour management policy to promote safe, settled and productive play;
- to improve the planning and assessment methods to develop a system which clearly identifies challenging and stimulating pre-school experiences;
- to improve the quality of the staff's interaction with the children to promote learning more effectively through the activities and routines; and
- to develop clearer leadership and guidance to bring about the improvements required.

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

- the roles and responsibilities of the staff have been reviewed to involve all staff in the planning for, development of and evaluation of the children's learning activities;
- a review of positive behaviour management approaches has been undertaken; and
- the staff development has focused on planning and assessment methodologies supported appropriately by the early years specialist.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection took place on 26 January 2009.

The action plan produced by the pre-school in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality. The pre-school'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 has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

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

- the revised planning formats provide improved guidance for the staff in their interactions with all children. The planning identifies more clearly the role of the adult and the intended learning opportunities;

- a suitable system of assessment is being developed, based on the staff's observations of the children's responses during the play;
- the staff are using appropriate behaviour management strategies by engaging appropriately the children in more purposeful play; and
- the effective development of indoor play, which promotes greater choice and challenge in the children's learning experiences.

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 some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the pre-school centre has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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