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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Kilrea Community Playgroup
Coleraine**

June 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILREA COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, KILREA, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT51 5SJ (3AB-0143)

The original inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the quality of the accommodation, the caring relationships between the staff and the children, and the satisfactory provision for learning across the pre-school curriculum.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas.

- The planning should be developed further to ensure that the educational programme reflects more closely the good practice identified in the document 'Curricular Guidance for Pre-school Education' and that it guides the staff effectively in their day-to-day work with the children.
- The staff need to take a more consistent approach to the observation and recording of the children's progress across all the areas of the curriculum, and to link the information to the planning in order to take more account of the specific needs and interests of the children.
- There is a need to develop further the centre's policy for special educational needs in order to plan more appropriately to meet the needs of those children who require additional support with their learning.

In the interval since the inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the pre-school centre have been implemented.

- The early years specialist provides effective support and guidance to the staff.
- The planning and assessment methods and the record-keeping formats have been revised and updated.
- The use of the space in the pre-school centre has been reviewed appropriately and the areas for learning enhanced, including the outdoor play area.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 4 June 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in March 2007.

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

- The revised planning formats provide appropriate guidance to the staff in their interactions with the children.
- An effective system of assessment is based on the staff's observations of the children's responses during play; this information is linked more clearly to the planning.

- The pre-school leader has developed effectively a culture of self-reflection among all the dedicated staff in the implementation of the relevant changes. There is good evidence of a better understanding of, and team approach to, the organisation and implementation of a planned programme, based on the children's individual needs and interests.

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

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