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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

**Little Folk Playgroup
Rostrevor**

February 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE FOLK PLAYGROUP, ROSTREVOR, CO DOWN, BT34 3EL (5AB-0336)

The inspection in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the centre's organisation of the daily timetable, the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development, the raising of mathematical awareness and the attention given to developing the children's creative ideas. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the interaction between the staff and the children;
- the written planning and observations of the children's responses to the activities; and
- aspects of the child protection policy.

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

- the staff and the management group have worked closely with the centre's early years specialist to address the main areas for improvement identified at the time of the original inspection; and
- a new member of staff was appointed and took up post in November 2009.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out three monitoring visits in January 2008, February 2009 and October 2009, and a follow-up inspection on 8 February 2010.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the 2007 inspection findings was of satisfactory quality.

The monitoring visits identified the need for improvement in the following areas:

- assessment and record keeping;
- the organisation of the latter part of the session; and
- the process of self-evaluation.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the staff have created a more attractive and interesting learning environment that provides a broader and more challenging range of activities for the children;
- the daily timetable has been reviewed to help ensure all time is used more effectively to promote learning;
- the majority of the staff are more focused on the learning to be promoted through the planned activities and use appropriate strategies to help overcome the difficulties experienced by some of the children;

- the child protection policy was reviewed in line with relevant guidelines; and
- the playgroup has a three year development plan to ensure that the quality of the provision continues to improve.

The areas which require further improvement are:

- continue to develop further the methods for planning and evaluating the provision and for assessing the children's progress;
- ensure that all policies are reviewed and updated on a regular basis; and
- review aspects of the physical play and story session to ensure the differing needs of all the children are met.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The playgroup has demonstrated evidence of improvement but significant areas for improvement in leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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