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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**Department of Education
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Little Rainbows Playgroup
Maghera**

December 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION IN LITTLE RAINBOWS PLAYGROUP, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5JN (3AB-0525)

The original inspection in November 2005 highlighted the good working relationships between the staff and the children, the appropriate period of uninterrupted play and the many instances of concentrated and productive activity and the satisfactory to good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the overall planning, particularly the short-term planning, in order to help the staff to exploit fully the learning potential inherent in the play activities, and to ensure that the educational programme progresses appropriately over the year; and
- to review and improve the organisation of the outdoor play provision.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place.

- The early years specialist provides relevant support and guidance to the recently appointed leader.
- The planning formats have been revised and updated.
- The children are provided with frequent opportunities for physical activities.
- The range of resources for outdoor physical play has been extended.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a series of inspection visits to the pre-school centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 5 December 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in November 2006.

The pre-school centre has a development plan; it has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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.
- The additional resources and improved organisation of the outdoor sessions are contributing to more purposeful play. The staff interact skilfully with the children during the outdoor play sessions; they make good use of the opportunities to promote the children's language and learning.
- The pre-school leader is developing successfully a culture of self-reflection among all the dedicated staff in the implementation of the relevant changes.

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 further as a means to sustain the development and improvement of the provision.

Good progress has been made in addressing the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the pre-school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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