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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

**Portaferry Playgroup
Co Down**

October 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF PORTAFERRY PLAYGROUP, CO DOWN, BT22 1QU (4BB-0180)

The inspection in Portaferry Playgroup in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos, the thoughtful organisation of the day and the quality of the staff's interaction with the children. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop the methods of planning and assessment;

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

- a new leader and assistant were appointed and took up post in February 2007; and
- improvements have been made to the accommodation, including the outdoor play area.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an inspection visit to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 8 October 2008, and also takes account of the findings of the visit in October 2007.

The 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 team now hold regular meetings to plan together for the educational programme;
- a new format is being used for planning which identifies some of the potential learning inherent in the activities;
- the staff collate some appropriate observations of the children's responses to the play activities and use the information to inform the planning;
- there is a developing sense of team-spirit among the staff who report that they feel valued and fully involved in the life of the centre; and
- the new leader has worked hard with the staff to develop important aspects of the centre's provision.

The centre's staff have not yet engaged in the process of self-evaluation. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes used for self-evaluation are developed fully to focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Good progress has been made in 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 centre's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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