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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

**Right Rascals Playgroup
Killinchy**

February 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF RIGHT RASCALS PLAYGROUP, KILLINCHY, CO DOWN, BT23 6SA (4CA-0530)

The inspection in Right Rascals Playgroup in November 2006 highlighted strengths in the centre's positive ethos, the good links established with the parents and the efforts made by the staff to create an attractive learning environment. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the methods of planning of the educational programme and assessing the children's differing needs;
- the organisation of the day;
- the provision for physical play; and
- the staff's skill in recognising and exploiting the learning inherent in the play activities.

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

- the pre-school centre has experienced a number of changes to the support provided by their early years specialist (EYS): overall, this support has been very limited;
- the Early Years Organisation has very recently provided temporary EYS support to assist the staff in the preparation for the follow-up inspection;
- a new member of staff has been appointed;
- the playgroup staff have appropriately visited other pre-school settings and attended a range of relevant courses;
- a new secure outdoor play area has been developed and resources purchased for outdoor play; and
- a range of good quality furniture and resources have been purchased to enhance the pre-school centre's provision.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit by the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) on 24 February 2009, but it also takes account of the findings of the monitoring visit in April 2008. The evidence from the monitoring visit in April 2008 indicated that the pre-school centre was not making sufficient progress, due largely to the inadequate support from the EYS.

The action plan produced by the pre-school centre in response to the inspection findings was of satisfactory quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visit. The pre-school centre's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the staff have worked very hard, along with the centre's manager, to address the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection;

- the staff have developed some useful planning for the educational programme and have devised an appropriate method of recording observations of the children at play;
- the staff have reviewed the organisation of the day; the thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable now allows the day to flow smoothly and provides a balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. The necessary routines are managed unobtrusively and used effectively to promote learning;
- the staff are developing a programme for physical activity both indoors and in the newly developed outdoor play area; they are beginning to plan for the development of a range of physical skills; and
- the staff's interaction with the children is now more consistently of a high quality.

Since the inspection, the pre-school centre has begun to evaluate the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture has not yet been introduced into the pre-school centre. The Inspectorate recommends that the pre-school centre's EYS should begin to work with the staff to develop the processes for self-evaluation, to include the future development of planning for the educational programme and the assessment of the children's differing needs.

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 the pre-school centre, with appropriate support from the pre-school centre's EYS, has the capacity to address these.

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