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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

**Scotwell House
Armagh**

April 2007

**REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN SCOTWELL HOUSE, ARMAGH,
BT60 2DJ (5AA-0190)
INSPECTED: 27 APRIL 2007**

The inspection in November 2004 highlighted strengths in the quality of the accommodation, the links established with the parents, the suitable range of play activities and good opportunities for learning in some areas of the curriculum, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children;
- the planning of the pre-school curriculum; and
- the organisation of the session.

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

- A new head of the unit was appointed and took up post in April 2006 and there has been a complete change of staff.
- Some additional resources for outdoor play and a computer for the children have been acquired.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visits on 16 March 2007 and 27 April 2007.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is consistently of a high standard. During the inspection, there were many examples when the staff interacted in a caring, sensitive and supportive manner to promote the children's language and learning.
- The organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance between free play and activities organised by the staff. Appropriate time is given to story and physical play sessions.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- develop a more systematic approach to the written planning and focus more clearly on the learning to be promoted in all areas of play and the link between observation, assessment and planning;

- continue to develop the outdoor play facilities in order to provide a more challenging physical play programme that will progress steadily throughout the year.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the pre-school centre to ensure that the improvements which are needed are implemented.

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