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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

**St Bernard's Pre-School Playgroup
Glengormley, Newtownabbey**

May 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN ST BERNARD'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, GLENGORMLEY, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 7QR (3AA-0258)

The inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the skill of the staff and also identified the need for improvement in the following key area:

- the organisation and management of the latter part of the session.

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

- There has been an increase in the number of funded pre-school children attending.
- A parents' committee has been formed and has successfully raised money through fundraising and grant applications to purchase new equipment and resources.
- An additional one-to-one worker has been employed to support a child with additional needs.
- The staff have prepared a new prospectus for parents.
- The outer hall has been redecorated.
- Stronger links have been developed with the nearby primary school.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 25 May 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in March 2007.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the management group.

- The latter part of the session has been improved to provide smaller group sessions for stories and singing which the children clearly enjoy.
- The staff foster very effectively a wider range of early mathematical language and ideas informally through the play and daily routines.
- There are better opportunities for the children to investigate and explore a range of living things.
- There is evidence of books being more accessible in different areas of play and they are used more consistently throughout the session.
- The staff are continuing to review and develop their methods for planning and assessment.

The pre-school centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

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