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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Conor's Primary School Nursery Unit
Omagh**

November 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST CONOR'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 5JQ (203-6116)

The inspection in May 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the nursery and the efforts made to create an attractive learning environment. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the skill of the staff in promoting more effectively and more informally the children's language and learning;
- the organisation of the day, to ensure all time is used effectively to promote learning through informal play activities; and
- the need to develop an appropriate system of monitoring and recording the children's progress and development and link this information to the planning to meet the children's differing needs.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the nursery has taken place.

- A teacher was redeployed from the primary school to the nursery unit from September 2005 to June 2007.
- A new teacher has been appointed to the nursery unit and took up post in September 2007.
- The staff have accessed support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service Early Years Advisory Officer and have visited other nurseries to observe good practice.
- Policies and procedures have been revised and an appropriate development plan for the nursery unit has been drafted.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit in April 2006 and a follow-up inspection on 30 November 2007.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection.

- The interactions of the staff are now very effective in sustaining the children's interest in their play. The detailed planning now helps the staff to promote the learning potential within the materials and experiences provided.
- The daily timetable is well-organised and provides a long period of uninterrupted play, both indoors and outside. The children have more opportunities to make choices throughout the session, and there is now a more appropriate balance between child-initiated and adult-led activities.

- The staff make regular observations of the children's progress across all areas of the curriculum. The children's ideas and thoughts are also recorded in displays around the playroom. The staff are now using the outcomes of these observations to plan further activities to meet the needs and interests of the children.

Since the inspection, the nursery has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period has contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the nursery identify appropriately its priorities for future development.

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 nursery's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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