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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

*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**

**Tiny Tots Centre  
Newtownabbey**

**September 2008**

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TINY TOTS CENTRE,  
NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT37 0EY (3AB-0255)**

The inspection in November 2006 highlighted strengths in the caring and supportive relationships between the staff and the children, the wide range of appropriate activities and the children's good social skills and high levels of independence. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the quality of the staff's interaction with the children;
- the effectiveness of the support provided by the early years specialist (EYS); and
- a clear focus on the pilot project.

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

- the access to the building through the front door is now controlled by the staff through the addition of a safety gate, a plastic detachable net and bell attached to the internal door;
- the staff have adapted the planning formats to focus on the intended learning outcomes, the physical play programme and the role of the adult;
- useful written prompts have been drawn up to provide guidance for staff in their interactions with the children and are prominently displayed around the playroom;
- the staff have begun to take the children's needs and interests into account within their short-term planning which includes detailed, honest and accurate evaluations;
- the layout and use of the creative area has been adapted and contains a greater variety of natural materials and interesting resources;
- the staff include some of the children's comments and responses in their work which is attractively displayed throughout the playroom; and
- the staff have attended some relevant training in special educational needs, story telling, creativity, physical play and the emotional well-being of the child.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 30 September 2008.

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

- the staff interact more skilfully with the children during play to promote their language and learning;
- the staff are planning a more appropriate programme for physical play;

- the children have daily opportunities for creative play and the staff interactions are more consistent in developing the children's creative ideas, language and thinking skills;
- the staff are evaluating the quality of the children's responses and experiences on a regular basis; and
- the leader, well supported by the staff and the EYS, has worked hard to bring about significant improvements in the overall quality of the children's experiences.

The centre has an action plan which has been developed as a result of the inspection findings. The leader and the EYS are in the process of drafting a comprehensive development plan to inform future work.

Since the inspection, the pre-school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Good progress has been made in all of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The centre is developing a rigorous process of self-evaluation leading to improvement.

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