

eti

*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

**Tir-na-nÓg Playgroup
Ballyclare**

February 2008

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN TIR-NA-NÓG PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM, BT39 9BG (3AB-0250)

The inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the centre and the quality of the children's play and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the quality of the staff's involvement in the children's play; and
- the methods of planning the activities and assessing the children's responses, in order to meet more fully the needs of the children.

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

- the centre has moved to refurbished accommodation within Tir-na-nÓg Primary School;
- the children have access to a secure covered outdoor play area and share the playground with the primary school;
- additional resources have been acquired to enhance the children's creative and physical development;
- the staff have accessed training in curriculum planning, assessment and in supporting children with special educational needs; and
- the children took part in a creative arts project with a local artist.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (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 29 February 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visit on 5 February 2008.

The pre-school centre has a development plan, which was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the planning has been reviewed and adapted to highlight the role of the adult in promoting the learning potential within the themes and activities;
- the staff interactions are more effective in building on the children's ideas and interests;
- the staff make more effective use of their observations of the children to inform the planning and now make assessments of their progress each term;

- individual learning plans have been developed for children with particular needs; and
- the staff now provide story sessions which are appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.