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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Tudor Lodge Nursery School
Belfast**

June 2010

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TUDOR LODGE NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT13 1LY (111-0025)

The inspection of Tudor Lodge Nursery School in May 2008 highlighted strengths in the very good relationships between the staff and the children and the high levels of engagement in outdoor play. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- a more consistent approach from the staff to the promotion of settled and productive play;
- a review of the playroom layout and resources to ensure a closer match of activities to the children's stages of development; and
- better use of the assessment information to support the planning of the programme.

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

- A new assistant teacher and a new parent support worker have been appointed; both took up post in 2009.
- Additional accommodation to facilitate work with parents has been built.
- The staff have undergone continuous professional development (CPD) through a range of visits and appropriate training courses.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two interim monitoring visits and a final follow-up visit on 2 June 2010.

The action plan produced by the nursery school in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- the staff are all more consistent in promoting settled and productive play and they engage with the children effectively for sustained periods to promote their thinking, language and learning;
- the children's behaviour, on almost all occasions, is very good;
- the revised room layout to provide more space and distinct areas for play and the incorporation of a wider range of resources provides a much richer and more stimulating learning environment which promotes effectively the children's interest and independence;

- the children display higher levels of concentration and perseverance as they explore, investigate and complete activities;
- the quality of the children's experiences and learning has improved in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum and, in particular, in relation to imaginative play, music making, use of construction materials and the development of their social skills; and
- the planning and assessment methods are more closely focused on the children's needs and interests.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture, throughout the follow-up inspection period, has contributed significantly to the improvements made, and helped the staff identify appropriately their priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that the nursery has demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery school is now very good. The nursery school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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