



*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

of

**Ballygowan Community Playgroup
Co Down**

October 2014

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF BALLYGOWAN COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The inspection of Ballygowan Community Playgroup in December 2012, evaluated the provision overall as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need to:

- develop further the methods of planning and assessment to meet the needs of all the children more effectively;
- begin the process of self-evaluation and development planning to help ensure the ongoing improvement and development of the provision;
- develop the provision for the promotion of the children's early scientific and technological skills; and
- ensure that all the areas relating to child protection matters are given urgent attention.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits in October 2013 and March 2014, and a follow up inspection on 16 October 2014.

The action plan received by the Department of Education (DE) following the inspection was of a good quality.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- the acting leader and deputy leader, at the time of the inspection, were made permanent; and
- an additional assistant has been employed.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection:

- the new leader has worked hard and encourages a collegial approach to developing all aspects of the setting's work and this contributes to the very positive ethos in the playgroup;
- all of the staff are now planning together to include appropriate variety, challenge and progression in the programme which is regularly evaluated to guide the staff in their daily work with the children and to inform future learning and teaching;
- through their interaction with the children the staff demonstrate an improved understanding of the pre-school curriculum;
- the curriculum provision provides a better range of interesting and more challenging activities which sustain the children's interest;
- the provision of additional resources at the children's level to provide them with more opportunities to make independent choices and attend to their own needs;

- the enriched programme provides more opportunities for the children to engage in purposeful and productive play and to partake in group story sessions and activities;
- the staff have developed a more consistent approach to observing and recording the children's responses to the planned activities and to monitor their progress and development over time;
- the children are being provided with good opportunities to make creative use of information and communication technology through the use of tablet computers and other technological equipment;
- the process of self-evaluation and development planning is progressing with suitable areas identified by the staff for improvement; there is clear evidence of ongoing improvement since the original inspection; and
- on the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the playgroup now has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is very good. The playgroup 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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