



*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

Busy Bee Cross-Community Playgroup Maghera

October 2014

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF BUSY BEE CROSS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP (3BB-0359)

The inspection of Busy Bee Cross Community Playgroup in October 2011, evaluated the provision overall as inadequate. The inspection identified the need for the playgroup to:

- organise the daily timetable to ensure that routines and activities are well-managed and make most use of all available time to promote the children's development and learning;
- improve the staff's understanding of how to promote the learning inherent in the planned programme, and in particular, how to extend the children's levels of concentration and thinking skills through the play activities; and
- improve the planning, to outline how the children's learning will develop systematically, to ensure that differing needs are met effectively, and to facilitate the provision of evidence of adequate challenge and progression over time.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits in November 2012 and February 2013, and a follow up inspection on 14 October 2014.

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

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

- there were significant changes in staff, including the appointment of a new leader in April 2014;
- the independent early years specialist provided the playgroup with advice, guidance and support focused on addressing the areas for improvement from the original inspection;
- the staff accessed relevant training on aspects of the pre-school curriculum and the use of observation and assessment to inform the planning for the programme;
- the staff re-arranged the indoor and outdoor learning areas to optimise the learning potential;
- the indoor and outdoor resources were reviewed and new equipment was acquired;
- the staff made changes to the use of time and the management of the children's regular routines; and
- new arrangements were developed for observing and assessing the children's progress to inform the planning.

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

- the newly appointed leader has a clear vision and strategy, shared and agreed with the management committee and the rest of the staff team, for the future development of the playgroup;
- the management committee, leader and staff are highly committed to bringing about sustained improvement in all aspects of the provision;
- the improvements made to the indoor and outdoor learning areas and resources are having a positive impact on the quality and extent of the children's learning, including their ability to play with greater concentration for sustained periods;
- the re-organisation of the daily timetable to extend the children's learning through their regular routines is now good; and
- there is a more systematic approach to the observation and assessment of the children's progress and development across the pre-school curriculum areas of learning.

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection the playgroup has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department but the following areas need to be addressed:

- the safeguarding policies, including relevant risk assessments, should be kept under regular review and reflect more fully the guidance issued by the relevant Departments; and
- all stakeholders, including the parents, should have the opportunity to be more involved in and fully informed about the implementation of the safeguarding policies.

Conclusion

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement in the provision, which needs to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

The area for improvement is the need for:

- the staff to continue to develop and embed improvements made to date in order that the planned programme is more fully informed by the ongoing observations and assessments of the children's progress, thereby ensuring progressive levels of challenge for the children throughout the year.

The ETI will carry out a further follow-up inspection within 12 months and a report will be published.

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