



*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

**Cranmore Integrated Primary School Playgroup
Belfast**

March 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF CRANMORE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, BELFAST, BT10 0JB (1BB-0507)

The inspection in Cranmore Integrated Primary School Playgroup in December 2011 highlighted strengths including the good opportunities to learn across the curriculum and the hard-working staff who link well with the parents. It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- further development of behaviour management strategies for use with children who display challenging behaviour;
- a review of the daily routines to make the best use of all of the time available; and
- further development of the observation and assessment procedures to better inform the planning for individual children.

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

- the staff have received training to support children with special educational needs through the Special Educational Needs Early Years Pilot;
- a member of the Belfast Education and Library Boards Early Years Inclusion Team (EYIT) has been deployed to provide additional focused support during the session;
- the settling in policy has been reviewed to extend the settling in period for children at the start of the school year;
- safeguarding information is clearly displayed in the foyer for parents; and
- the playgroup leader has extended her hours to work in the playgroup for five days a week.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in June 2012 and October 2012 and a follow up inspection on 6 March 2013.

The action plan received by the Department of Education (DE) following the inspection was of a good quality. It was reviewed and amended further by the playgroup in May 2012.

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

- the layout of the playroom has been improved to support the children's self-management, independence and more settled use of the quiet room;
- the daily timetable is well managed with more effective strategies in place to ensure smooth transitions and a well managed snack and home time routine;
- the quality of the learning experiences has improved in all areas of the pre-school curriculum;

- there is very good promotion of language and communication and early mathematical ideas, and the children make more frequent use of books and writing materials during the session;
- there is excellent early identification and referrals made for children identified with learning needs in collaboration with the EYIT;
- the staff use the skills they have learned through the recent EYIT training to implement effective strategies for managing children's behaviour;
- the children respond well to visual cues and clear, direct instructions, they listen more attentively and are well motivated to make good choices;
- there are more systematic and detailed methods in place to track children's progress, set targets and plan for individual needs of children;
- the staff interaction is more consistently of a high quality; and
- there are improving links with all schools to which the children will transfer.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by Cranmore Integrated Primary School Playgroup this playgroup is now 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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