



*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**

**Crossgar Community Playgroup  
Co Down**

**March 2013**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF CROSSGAR COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CROSSGAR, CO DOWN, BT30 9EG (4BB-0185)**

The inspection in Crossgar Community Playgroup in April 2012 highlighted strengths in the very positive ethos; the good quality of the interaction between the staff and children; the good opportunities for learning provided in all areas of the pre-school curriculum; and the good vision demonstrated by the leader and the hard-working staff who work well as a team.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to ensure there are appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding the children;
- to ensure the information shared with the parents is accurate and sufficiently detailed to inform them about important aspects of the playgroup's provision and help them engage fully in their child's education; and
- the need to source appropriate guidance and support for the management committee to enable them to carry out their roles and duties in a well-informed and effective manner.

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

- the leader and deputy-leader have completed the safeguarding training with regard to the roles of designated and deputy designated personnel;
- a range of safeguarding policies have been drawn up and the appropriate consultation with the management committee and parents has been completed;
- the leader of the playgroup and the staff have visited other pre-school settings to view practice in order to develop further the team's evaluation of planning;
- the members of staff have reviewed the planning to include more appropriate detail regarding the weekly learning objectives and the role of the adult in the development of the children's learning activities;
- the management committee has received training regarding their committee roles and responsibilities; and
- an additional funding has been obtained to acquire a wider range of resources for energetic, physical play

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit in June 2012 regarding the safeguarding matters and a follow-up inspection on 19 March 2013.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the original inspection findings was of a good quality. It was reviewed and further amended by the playgroup in response to the interim inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the designated and deputy designated staff for safeguarding implement appropriately their respective roles;

- the staff's weekly evaluations of the play focus more fully on the intended learning for individual children and the children's responses;
- the parents and the members of the management committee receive good quality information regarding the children's learning and the development of the curriculum in the playgroup;
- the quality of the adult interactions with the children is consistently very good;
- the roles and responsibilities of the management committee are clearly defined and implemented;
- the playgroup leader provides very good leadership; she has developed well the staff's capabilities to develop and evaluate their practice; and
- on the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the playgroup has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

## CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by 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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