



*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

**Jiminy Crickets Pre-School
Comber**

October 2014

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF JIMINY CRICKETS PRE-SCHOOL (4BA-0600)

The inspection of Jiminy Crickets pre-school in November 2012, evaluated the provision overall as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need for the pre-school to:

- continue to develop the staff's understanding of the pre-school curriculum;
- continue to develop the methods of planning and assessment to provide a broad and balanced programme of activities that progress throughout the year and meet all the children's differing needs; and
- develop the effectiveness of the leadership and management arrangements at all levels and build further on the recently established shared team approach in order to ensure the continuous development of the provision.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits in November 2013 and May 2014, and a follow up inspection on 7 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 pre-school have taken place:

- there were several changes in staff, including the appointment of a new leader in September 2014;
- the independent early years specialist provided advice, guidance and support which was focused on improving the quality of the pre-school provision; and
- the staff attended relevant training on aspects of the pre-school curriculum and the use of observation and assessment to inform the planning for the programme.

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

- the staff demonstrate an improved understanding of the pre-school curriculum and provide interesting activities which engage the children and support their developing independence well;
- the staff's interactions with the children are of a more consistent quality and focus on extending the children's language and learning across the 6 learning areas;
- the quality of the provision for the children's learning through play has improved and is now good; and
- there is a more systematic approach to the observation and assessment of the children's progress.

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection the pre-school 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 relevant designated staff with responsibility for safeguarding within the pre-school need to be provided with up-dated training; and
- the safeguarding policies should be kept under review and reflect more fully the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this pre-school remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The follow-up inspection has identified areas for improvement in leadership and management, which need to be addressed urgently if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

The areas for improvement include the need for:

- greater clarity in the roles and responsibilities for everyone involved in the leadership and management of the pre-school to manage the setting more effectively and to bring about continuous improvement through robust monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the centre's provision; and
- 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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