



*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

**Kiddiwinkles Playgroup
Dungannon**

February 2014

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KIDDIWINKLES PLAYGROUP, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT71 4DU (5CA-0598)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Kiddiwinkles Playgroup, Dungannon on the 19 November 2012, and evaluated the overall provision as inadequate.

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

- the staff interaction with the children to promote concentrated play and to sustain the children's learning and involvement;
- the organisation of the day;
- the planning and assessment methods to meet more effectively the children's wide range of individual needs; and
- support to develop the staff leadership and management skills to plan for, and implement ongoing improvement.

In addition, there was a need to ensure that the relevant designated staff with responsibility for safeguarding within the playgroup were provided with up-dated training and that the relevant safeguarding policies were kept under review and reflected the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

The education and training inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits in June and October 2013 and a follow-up inspection on 11 February 2014.

The action plan has been adjusted and continues to be effectively used by the staff to develop a more systematic approach to the improvement process in the playgroup.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the playgroup has received extensive support from the early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation and more recently from an independent early years consultant since November, 2013. The following changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- the deputy leader was recently appointed in September 2013 and received child protection training in December 2013;
- the early years specialist and consultant provided effective advice, guidance and support which was focused on improving the quality of the playgroup provision; and
- the outdoor area is now fenced and daily risk assessments are carried out by the staff.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:

- there are now excellent relationships between the staff and the children and the consistent promotion of positive behaviour management is effectively improving the children's attention and concentrated play;
- there is a better flow to the organisation of the day and the staff make effective use of most of the routines for learning;

- the staff are consistently developing the programme to meet the needs of the majority of newcomer children;
- a more reflective approach has developed among the staff and they are beginning to develop a shared understanding of the requirements of the Pre-School Curricular Guidance and the HighScope approach to plan a more appropriate pre-school programme;
- the advice, guidance and support provided by the early years specialist and consultant has focused appropriately on the development of planning, assessment and interaction to foster learning and is being effectively implemented by the staff;
- the leader is receiving leadership and management training and has developed the monitoring arrangements and more effective systems for planning and assessment;
- the links with other settings have been strengthened to build the capacity of the leader to lead and manage the playgroup; and
- the role of the Proprietor now includes a challenge and support function to effect improvements in the provision.

Conclusion

Overall, the quality of education provided by the playgroup is now good; the areas for improvement outweigh the strengths in the provision. The playgroup has important strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement in embedding the good processes in leadership and management to sustain ongoing improvements.

The area for improvement is the need to:

- provide a more specific language development programme to meet the needs of the significant numbers of newcomer children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the playgroup's progress on the area for improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2014

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

