



*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

**Our Lady's Pre-School Playgroup
Belfast**

October 2014

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF OUR LADY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP (1BB-0012)

The inspection of Our Lady's pre-school playgroup in 2012, evaluated the provision overall as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need:

- for the staff to improve the systems for recording the children's progress and using this information to plan for individuals and ensure progression in all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- to improve the quality of the staff interaction to ensure that they effectively promote the children's language and communication skills and encourage the children to explore, investigate and experiment; and
- to develop the role of leadership and management by monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the provision more rigorously.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two visits to follow-up on areas requiring improvement in the playgroups safeguarding procedures and a further two interim follow-up visits in June 2013, and January 2014.

The action plan received by the Department of Education (DE) following the inspection was of a satisfactory quality and was amended further in light of the interim visits.

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

- the arrangement for child protection/safeguarding are now comprehensive based on the evidence available at the time of the follow-up inspection;
- the staff interact more effectively and more consistently to promote the children's language, independence and exploratory play;
- the children are less reliant on the adults to sustain their play and are more purposefully engaged in investigating and experimenting with the play equipment;
- the staff are making improvements in collating relevant records of progress and in using this information to identify and plan to meet children's needs;
- the weekly evaluations are now more focused on the children's learning;
- there is a richer range of planned physical play activities and the children demonstrate higher levels of engagement outdoors;
- the management group have provided valuable support in helping with the organisation and administration of the group; and
- the early years specialist has provided well focused training, good support and guidance in line with the post inspection action plans.

During the follow-up inspection process progress has been intermittent and inconsistent. Factors which may have impacted negatively on the progress being made include: staff absence; changes in EYS; and financial constraints due to the small number of pre-school children.

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in teaching and learning, leadership and management, which still need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. It will be important that the leadership and management manage the planned transition to new premises effectively to maintain the improvements to date and build on them further.

The areas for improvement include the need:

- to continue to link the assessment of the children's progress to the planning in order to identify actions required to support their needs;
- for the staff to build further their capacity to meet the wide range of needs within the group including children with special educational needs and those from newcomer families;
- for the leader to continue to develop her leadership and management skills;
- for the leadership and management to develop further the processes for effective monitoring and evaluation and self-evaluation.

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

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