



*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

**Peatlands Playgroup
Portadown**

October 2014

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF PEATLANDS PLAYGROUP, PORTADOWN, CO ARMAGH, BT62 1LR (5AB-0396)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Peatlands Playgroup, Portadown on 6 December 2012, and evaluated the overall provision as satisfactory.

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

- to continue to develop further the methods of planning and assessment to provide a broad and balanced programme of activities that progress throughout the year and meet the children's differing needs;
- to improve the provision for the promotion of the children's physical, scientific and technological skills; and
- to develop further the process of self-evaluation and development planning leading to improvement.

The education and training inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit in April 2014 and a follow-up inspection on 7 October 2014.

The action plan has been adjusted to take account of the inspection findings 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 support from two early years specialists from the Early Years Organisation. The current early years specialist has been supporting the playgroup since September 2014.

The following changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- the staff have developed further the quality of the children's learning experiences in the scientific and technological areas;
- the allocation of funding to provide additional digital and natural resources has extended the children's opportunities for a greater breadth of learning in the indoor and outdoor areas; and
- the staff have developed a more appropriate planning and assessment system which supports more effectively the development of the pre-school programme.

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

- there are more appropriately planned learning opportunities for play in the outdoor area;
- the promotion of observation and curiosity in the outdoor and indoor learning environment is effectively developing the children's awareness of science in the world around them;
- the addition of digital resources is supporting the children's engagement in learning;

- the advice, guidance and support provided by the early years specialists has focused appropriately on the development of planning, assessment and interaction to foster learning;
- the staff have recently identified areas for development and are beginning to strategically plan for improvement in the longer term; and
- the deputy leader is receiving leadership and management training and is sharing her learning and development with the staff.

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:

- ensure that the staff have sufficient time and support to engage in self-evaluation processes in order to take forward development planning to sustain ongoing improvement.

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

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