



*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

**Rockmount Day Nursery
Ballynahinch**

October 2014

FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF ROCKMOUNT DAY NURSERY, BALLYNAHINCH, BT24 8HS (4CA-0442)

The inspection of Rockmount Day Nursery in November 2012 evaluated the provision as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- for the staff to develop further their planning and assessment methods in order to focus more sharply on the learning potential and the role of the adult in each activity;
- to improve the quality of the staff interactions with the children to ensure that they effectively extend the children's learning, language and thinking skills; and
- for the staff, with the support of their early years specialist, to develop further their understanding and use of the self-evaluation process.

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

- a new leader has been appointed and an additional assistant now works with the children in the day nursery;
- the playroom has been re-organised and the routines of the day have been revised; for example, new arrangements for snack-time and the use of visual timetables have been introduced;
- the staff have received regular focused support from their independent early years specialist and have attended a range of training sessions, including the development of science and early mathematics;
- a culture of self-evaluation to promote improvement has been developed and a three year development plan has been produced;
- the proprietor has undertaken observations of the practice in the playroom and provided formal feedback to the staff;
- the medium-term and short-term planning has been revised and a new system for recording observations of children's learning, and the use of these to inform future planning, has been put in place;
- additional resources for developing early mathematics and science have been purchased and created, and the outdoor play area has been an area of focus with the development of a vegetable patch, wild area and a pond;
- records of concern and individual education plans have been developed for those children with special educational needs and good links have been established with relevant external agencies; and
- the links with the parents and with the schools to which the children transfer, have been further developed and strengthened.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits in September 2013 and January 2014 and a follow-up inspection on 2 October 2014.

The action plan produced by the day nursery in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the re-organisation of the playroom, revised routines and additional resources effectively enable the children to develop their independence and the staff now make good use of all opportunities for learning throughout the session;
- a broad range of activities and creative resources provide very good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- regular and focused support has been provided by the independent early years specialist, which the leader reports has been very beneficial and given the staff a very clear understanding of how to promote improvement effectively;
- the staff have developed further as a team and are making good use of self-evaluation processes to promote continued improvements within the day nursery;
- the revised planning and assessment procedures effectively support the staff in their involvement with the children; the staff have a shared understanding of the learning to be promoted through the planned activities and, as a result, the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is of a consistently high standard;
- the staff are recording appropriate observations of the children's learning and development and these are used well to inform future planning;
- individual education plans with appropriate targets have been used effectively for those children identified as having additional learning needs and those children made good progress towards overcoming their barriers to learning. Appropriate records are in place to identify any areas of need for the current cohort of children; and
- a number of parents have visited the setting to tell the children about their jobs which has enhanced the children's learning experiences.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this day nursery is now very good. The day nursery 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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