



*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

**St Vincent de Paul Playgroup
Belfast**

September 2014

FOLLOW UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL PLAYGROUP

The inspection of St Vincent de Paul Playgroup in 2014, evaluated the provision overall as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need:

- to develop the special educational needs provision within the playgroup;
- to improve the quality of the staff interaction to ensure that they effectively extend the children's learning, language and early maths; and
- for the staff, with the help of their early years specialist, to develop further their understanding and use of the self-evaluation process.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit in January 2014, and a follow-up inspection on 26 September 2014.

The action plan received by the Department of Education (DE) following the inspection was of a good quality.

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

- there is a clear policy in place to guide more effectively the staff on the process for identifying, monitoring and meeting the needs of children with special education needs;
- there is a more comprehensive policy on the strategies used to promote the children's positive behaviour and these are now being implemented consistently by the staff;
- the staff are attending a range of appropriate training courses and are linking with the primary school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) to further develop their capacity and skill to support children with special educational needs;
- the staff interaction now extends more effectively the children's language, learning and early maths with the quality of the interaction currently ranging from good to outstanding; staff consistently promote purposeful play, independence, language and promotion of maths naturally through the play and the daily routines;
- the whole staff team are working more collaboratively to plan and support each other during the session;
- the new outdoor play area has been secured and the resources further enhance the quality of the children's learning experiences; and
- the staff's capacity for self-evaluation and action planning continues to develop steadily; there is clear evidence of reflective practice and ongoing improvement since the original inspection.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now good; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The playgroup 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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