

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Ballinderry Playgroup, Coagh, County Tyrone

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No (5AB-0217)

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
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Follow-up to the inspection of Ballinderry Playgroup, Coagh, BT80 OAY (5AB-0217)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Ballinderry Playgroup in October 2019¹, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely:

- to improve opportunities for the children to be creative across the curriculum;
- for the staff to sustain high quality shared interactions with the children;
- to develop further the snack routine and the arrangements for transitions for indoor and outdoor play to make more effective use of all the time for learning; and
- to ensure more rigorous monitoring and self-evaluation in order to inform the action planning and promote continuous improvement.

The pre-school's action plans were adjusted in response to the feedback given by the ETI. The pre-school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit in May 2021 and a follow-up inspection in June 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from an independent early years specialist in relation to: the development of practice for planning and assessment of the pre-school programme; and the monitoring and evaluation of action planning.

Over the same period, the key actions or changes which affect the work of the pre-school include:

- the permanent appointment of a leader;
- the appointment of a new management committee, including a new chair; and
- the trialling of an online assessment app.

As a consequence of the external support and the key changes and actions taken within the pre-school, there have been improvements in the quality of education as reported in the key findings below.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection – Ballinderry Playgroup, Coagh, County Tyrone](#)

Key findings

The outcomes for learners have improved and are now very good. All of the children are well-settled and engage in purposeful and creative play with high levels of perseverance and concentration. Nearly all of the children are confident in engaging with adults to support or extend their learning. They manage all transitions very well, have excellent social and play skills and are developing friendships confidently. Almost all of the children are curious to explore and investigate their surroundings and are willing to experiment, take risks and solve problems in the indoor and outdoor learning environment. The children's fine and gross motor skills are particularly well developed; they hold and use writing tools appropriately when mark-making and they chop vegetables and fill containers with accuracy. The children's representational artwork is very well developed and work displayed includes examples of very accurate observational painting.

The quality of provision has improved and is now very good. The attractive and stimulating environment is well resourced with authentic and natural resources, and promotes very well the children's learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The planning is responsive to the interests and needs of all the children and clearly outlines the learning potential of the planned activities. The well-established routines in the pre-school ensure seamless transitions for the children throughout the session, including snack-time and moving between indoor and outdoor play. The staff are increasingly skilful in their interactions with the children and use naturally all opportunities to introduce mathematical concepts and ideas through the course of the children's play. The staff use appropriate open-ended questions to foster the children's thinking skills and develop their language, and provide them with additional resources to extend their learning. All staff contribute to an effective observation and assessment of learning cycle that ensures frequent reflection on how to: provide an increasingly stimulating and challenging environment; and plan for continued progression in the children's learning.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now very good. A well-considered, appropriately targeted development plan is in place. The plan is evaluated rigorously to measure accurately the outworking and impact of action-planning to promote continuous improvement in the children's learning. The staff work together very effectively as a team and value the support provided by the independent early years specialist. They articulate clearly the impact of the improvement work on developing the learning environment and an effective planning and assessment cycle. The result of which is a wide range of high-quality learning experiences across the pre-school curriculum with appropriate progression for the children.

Overall effectiveness

Ballinderry Playgroup now has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the pre-school sustains improvement.

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