

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Banagher Community Playgroup, Feeny,  
County Londonderry

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 2AB-0299

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2022



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## Follow-up to the inspection of Banagher Community Playgroup, Feeny, BT47 4TZ (2AB-0299)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Banagher Community Playgroup in November 2019<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address urgently significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners, namely:

- to develop the staff understanding and knowledge of the pre-school curriculum and promote progression in learning through high-quality adult interaction;
- to develop the children's problem solving, investigation, creativity and promote purposeful play; and
- to develop the staff understanding and use of self-evaluation to bring about improvement in the outcomes for children and the provision for learning.

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit on 17 May 2021 and a follow-up inspection on 17 June 2022.

In the interval since the original inspection, the playgroup has received ongoing support from the Early Years Organisation through a 12-week support programme. The training, delivered through online sessions and on-site visits, focused on the quality of staff interactions, the development of planning, observations of learning and self-evaluation processes.

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

- the appointment of a new chairperson and members to the management committee;
- staff engaged in training on observations, planning and assessment for all areas of the pre-school curriculum and participated in peer observations;
- staff attendance at cluster training focused on the basics of self-evaluation and development planning; and
- visits by staff to two other pre-school settings to observe the high-quality provision and adult interactions.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> [Pre-School Inspection - Banagher Community Playgroup, Feeny, County Londonderry 2AB-0299 \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://etini.gov.uk)

## Key findings

The outcomes for learners have improved and are now good. All of the children choose independently where they wish to play and engage in sustained, productive play with their peers and the staff. They actively engage in mark-marking and their representational drawings are appropriately detailed for the time of year. Most of the children have a keen interest in books; they access them independently, share them enthusiastically with staff during activities and listen attentively during the group story. The children use appropriate early mathematical language during incidental play and show a good understanding of early mathematical concepts. A majority of the children participate in investigative play and explore with curiosity the range of stimulating resources in the outdoor environment.

The quality of provision has improved and is now good. The staff have developed well the outdoor learning environment with a good range of natural and commercial materials. The planning for outdoor play provides good opportunities for the children to develop their knowledge and skills across the pre-school curriculum. The staff interactions with the children are of a consistently good quality; they use open-ended questioning and model language during activities to extend the children's learning. The planning for learning outlines clearly the progression across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. A revised approach to the observation and assessment of the children is guiding well the learning and teaching; the staff have identified appropriately the need to embed this process further to inform future planning to meet the individual needs of the children.

The quality and effectiveness of the leadership and management have improved and are now good. The staff team work collaboratively and have developed well their understanding of the pre-school curriculum. They have engaged in a range of professional development opportunities, including visits to other pre-schools to observe high-quality provision. Through engagement in peer observations, the staff evaluate their practice and can identify and articulate clearly appropriate areas for improvement. The staff have a good understanding of self-evaluation and the impact of their actions to promote improvement on the quality of the children's learning experiences.

## Overall effectiveness

Banagher Community Playgroup's provision is now evaluated as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the pre-school sustains improvement in:

- embedding the process of observation of the children's learning to inform future planning and progression in the pre-school curriculum.

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