

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Broughshane Centre of Early Learning,
Ballymena, County Antrim

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 3AB-0142

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



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Follow-up to the inspection of Broughshane Centre of Early Learning, Ballymena, BT42 4JY (3AB-0142)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Broughshane Centre of Early Learning in June 2019¹, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address an important area for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely:

- for the leadership and management to develop further the staff's understanding and use of self-evaluation and development planning to bring about improved quality pre-school provision and outcomes for learners.

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

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

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from an Independent Early Years Specialist (IEYS) in relation to planning, action planning for improvement, and self-evaluation.

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

- appointment of new staff members, including a new leader in September 2022;
- installation of the internet into the playroom, purchase of digital devices and staff training on using digital technology; and
- creation of a new sensory garden for outdoor play.

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.

Key findings

The outcomes for learners have improved and are now very good.

Almost all of the children are well-settled, have positive attitudes and dispositions for learning and are making very good progress across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum. They manage all transitions very well and are developing friendships with their peers. All of the children explore and investigate their natural surroundings with

¹ [Follow-up Inspection - Broughshane Centre of Early Learning, Ballymena, County Antrim 3AB-0142 \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://etini.gov.uk)

interest and curiosity; most display high levels of perseverance during individual and collaborative play. Nearly all of the children experiment, take risks and solve problems effectively as they construct towers, complete puzzles, and search for and identify minibeasts.

The quality of provision remains good.

The staff are implementing effectively a new approach to planning, observation, and assessment. They make regular observations and assessments of the children's learning and use these to inform short-term planning which is meeting better the needs and interests of the children. The staff have improved significantly the outdoor learning environment through enhanced opportunities for creative, sensory and investigative play, which is impacting positively on the children's outcomes. The outdoor play planning requires further development to increase the opportunities for children to engage in energetic play.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now good.

The newly formed staff team have clear roles and responsibilities; they work collaboratively to good effect and have a shared commitment to providing good quality provision for all of the children. The staff are benefitting from the good support provided by the IEYS and have a better understanding of self-evaluation which has, for example, led to improvements in outdoor provision. The staff have created a well-constructed development plan and action plans which identify appropriate priorities for the further development of the playgroup, and through which they can embed the self-evaluation and development planning process.

Overall effectiveness

Broughshane Centre of Early Learning now demonstrates 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 processes for self-evaluation and development planning.

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