

# Education and Training Inspectorate PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



## Early Days Playgroup, Bangor, County Down

Voluntary Pre-school Playgroup DE Ref No: 4BB-0172

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in February 2020

## Introduction

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Early Days Playgroup in November 2018<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement are to:

- focus on and explain more explicitly the learning potential within the planning, including for outdoor learning, both to inform the adult interactions and raise further the children's standards; and
- develop and embed the self-evaluation and development planning process to enable the staff to measure more accurately the impact of the improvement actions on the quality of the provision and the outcomes for the children.

The playgroup's action plans were of a good quality and adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The playgroup's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in June 2019 and a follow-up inspection in February 2020.

During this period, other actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup include:

- the staff availing of professional development opportunities and participating in a local pre-school cluster; and
- visiting a range of other settings through the 'Childcare Network Group'.

## Key findings

The outcomes for children are now very good. The children spend lengthy periods in sustained, productive play and access independently additional resources to extend their learning. They respond positively and enthusiastically to the staff's high expectations and the strategies which the staff use consistently to develop self-reliance, active listening and positive decision-making. The children persevere in problem-solving and investigative activities, for example, selecting from the wide range of interesting and challenging resources in the science boxes. They produce very good representational artwork and junk models selecting from and using independently a variety of materials and tools.

The quality of the provision is now very good. The staff have developed a shared understanding of how to develop and exploit effectively the learning potential within the activities. They take very good account of the children's own ideas and interests, together with their relevant and systematic observations of the children's learning, to inform future planning across all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The written planning is systematic and detailed; ensuring continuous progression and challenge for all of the children. The staff's interactions are of a high quality and are effective in promoting the children's learning through both the planned activities and the regular daily routines. The staff pose interesting open-ended questions at the point of learning and extend the children's reasoning and creativity.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-early-days-playgroup-bangor-county-down>

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement are now very good. The staff are all very reflective in their practice through regular evaluation sessions. The leader and staff team plan strategically for the continuous development of the provision; identifying and monitoring systematically the impact of the improvement work and identifying key priorities for further improvement. The staff work effectively with the support of their independent early years specialist. The recent improvement work has brought about significant and measurable improvement in the progression and range of the learning experiences provided and the outcomes for the children.

### **Overall effectiveness**

Early Days Playgroup has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement.

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