

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Flutterbies Playgroup, Belfast

Voluntary Playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in October 2016



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF FLUTTERBIES PLAYGROUP, BELFAST, BT6 9QE (1AB-0610)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Flutterbies Playgroup in February 2015¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The areas for improvement included the need for the staff to:

- develop further their understanding of the pre-school curriculum and to plan more effectively for the children's progression in learning across it;
- develop their interactions with the children to ensure they are of a consistently high quality throughout the whole session, in order to exploit more fully the opportunities for learning; and
- continue, with the support of their Early Years Specialist, to develop their confidence and understanding in the use of self-evaluation to develop and improve the quality of the provision in the playgroup so that all of the children achieve to their full potential.

At the time of the original inspection, safeguarding was evaluated as satisfactory.

The playgroup's action plan was 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 two interim follow-up visits in November 2015 and May 2016 and a follow-up inspection in October 2016.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- There have been a number of changes to the staff and, at the time of the follow-up inspection, a new permanent assistant was in place and another assistant position was being filled in a temporary capacity.
- A new chair was appointed for the management committee.
- The playgroup have had very good early years specialist support from the Early Years Organisation.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management is now good. The management committee, under the leadership of the new chair, is functioning well and now provide very good support to the leader and staff. They have accessed training in their roles and there is now a member of the committee with appropriate training who is fulfilling the role of designated member for child protection. The arrangements for safeguarding are now comprehensive. The staff work very well as a team and the staff development training in special educational needs, through the Early Years Inclusion Service, is evident in the good

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-flutterbies-playgroup-belfast>

quality of the support for children with additional learning needs. A development plan is now in place and the leader and the staff have made good use of audit tools and self-evaluation to monitor the progress of the actions to promote improvement. Action planning is not yet fully effective and in moving forward, the staff need to continue to develop further the use of action plans to inform better the improvement process.

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. The staff are confident in their interactions with the children and model both play and language effectively. The quality of the adult interactions with the children is consistently good, and at times very good. The adults focus effectively on promoting problem-solving and thinking skills through open-ended questions. The planning for learning is good and there is a clear focus on developing learning and appropriate language. The planned curriculum is now developmentally appropriate and provides good progression in learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff make appropriate use of their observations of the children's learning and are using them more effectively to inform their future planning. They have reviewed the use of space in the large hall and the current arrangement allows for energetic play throughout the session. There is now good quality provision across all areas of play and very good provision for children with additional learning needs.

The standards and achievements remain good. The children are settled and almost all are confident in the routines of the setting. They are developing well their independence and can access a range of resources to enhance their play without adult support. The children are interested in songs and stories and a small number enjoyed browsing in books. They engage well with the natural resources on the interest table and in the farm shop; their interest in the world around us is growing. The children identified as having additional learning needs are making good progress and most respond well to the good range of support strategies employed by the staff.

Overall Effectiveness

Flutterbies Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in continuing to improve the effectiveness of action planning leading to further improvement.

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