

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Killough Playgroup, Downpatrick,
County Down

Voluntary pre-school

Report of a Follow-up inspection in
February 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILLOUGH PLAYGROUP, DOWNPATRICK, BT30 7QD (4BB-0388)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection in December 2015¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address the following important areas for improvement in the interest of all learners.

- To use the observations of the children's learning to better inform future planning and ensure progression and challenge throughout the year for all of the children.
- For the staff and leader, with the support of the management committee and the early years specialist, to develop further their understanding and use of the process of self-evaluation, in order to ensure sustained continuous improvement within the playgroup.

The playgroup's development and action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2016 and a second follow-up inspection in February 2017.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, actions which affect the work of the playgroup include:

- all staff engaged in professional development opportunities and the leader acquired a level 5 qualification;
- the staff hold weekly staff planning meetings and have received support from the early years specialist (EYS), which they evaluate as very good; and
- the setting purchased a range of resources to enhance the provision both indoors and outdoors.

Key findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an important area for improvement. The action plans focus on developing the planning and provision for outdoor play and the world around us. This important improvement work has begun through the recent installation of an outdoor mud kitchen and water play area. However, the staff, working in partnership with the management committee and the EYS, need to focus more clearly on the intended consequent improvement in learning, teaching and outcomes for the children.

The quality of learning and teaching remains an area for improvement. The short-term planning is not differentiated appropriately for the two distinct age groups, and evaluations do not inform sufficiently the next cycle of planning. The planning and provision for outdoor play remains underdeveloped. There has been a notable improvement in the quality of the short-term planning. The staff observe the children's learning regularly, record it accurately and reflect their observations appropriately in the short-term planning. The quality of interaction between adults and children is generally good in the playroom but is less effective outdoors.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-killough-playgroup-county-down.pdf>

The standards and achievements are now good. Almost all of the children settle quickly to concentrated play and most are engaging well with their peers in co-operative play. Most of the children have a good knowledge of number, can recognise colours and use appropriate mathematical language when measuring. While the children have good oral language and demonstrate an interest in books, their mark-making skills are underdeveloped.

Overall effectiveness

Killough Playgroup needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following areas for improvement:

- to develop further the process of self-evaluation to demonstrate clearly the impact of the actions on the learning, teaching and outcomes for the children; and
- to develop the planning and provision for outdoor play.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in 12 to 18 months.

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