

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Killough Playgroup, Killough,
County Down

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in June 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a second follow-up inspection of Killough Playgroup in February 2017¹ which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

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

The pre-school did not submit a post-inspection action plan.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2017 and a third follow-up inspection in June 2018.

In the interval since the second follow-up inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the pre-school have taken place:

- the deputy leader has completed her level five leadership qualification and the assistant has completed her level three qualification; and
- the outdoor area has been improved and enhanced through cleaning and the addition of more resources.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. Overall, the staff are more reflective in their practice. The leader and staff team, working with the Early Years' Specialist (EYS), have effected improvement in enhancing the quality of the children's learning experiences, particularly in the World Around Us. Through self-evaluation, key areas for improvement have been identified and incorporated into the new development plan, in particular the arts and physical development. While the staff have acquired additional qualifications during the follow-up process, they do not avail sufficiently of professional development opportunities provided through the Early Years' Organisation.

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. Since the last inspection, the staff have developed short-term planning for outdoor play, which has resulted in the children benefiting from a more varied programme outdoors. The playroom and the outdoor area have been enhanced with the integration of more authentic and natural resources which supports very well the children's interest in and exploration of the world around them. The EYS and staff have identified appropriately the need to develop further progression in the children's learning, and to plan for and extend the learning for the more able children in the setting using a range of appropriate resources.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-killough-playgroup-downpatrick-county-down-4bb-0388.pdf>

The standards and achievements remain good. The children are happy and very well-settled in the playgroup. They play well together and interact confidently with adults and each other. Almost all of the children engage in concentrated and productive play throughout the session. They experiment more frequently with mark making and emergent writing and are curious about the world around them.

Overall Effectiveness

Killough Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement in developing the process of self-evaluation to ensure high quality learning and teaching, particularly in the arts and the children's physical development.

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