

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Kingdom Playgroup, Kilkeel, County Down

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 5AB-0231

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in October 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
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Follow-up to the inspection of Kingdom Playgroup, Kilkeel, BT34 4JT (5AB-0231)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Kingdom Playgroup in November 2019¹, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- develop the quality of staff interactions with the children;
- make regular and more effective use of observations of the children's progress in learning across all areas of the curriculum and use these to inform future planning; and
- develop a robust process of self-evaluation and action planning leading to improvement in the quality of provision for the children.

The pre-school's action plans were adjusted in response to 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 November 2021 and a follow-up inspection in October 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from an early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation in relation to: the development of practice for planning and assessment of the pre-school programme; and the monitoring and evaluation of action planning.

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

- the appointment of existing staff members to leadership posts and the appointment of a new assistant.

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 remain good. The children are all well-settled and engage in sustained and purposeful play. They listen attentively and contribute enthusiastically during story time and interact confidently with their peers to develop creative role play and friendships. Almost all of the children are naturally inquisitive; they explore, investigate and problem solve with confidence in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. The children's fine and gross motor skills are well developed; they hold and use writing tools appropriately when mark-making, chop

¹ [Pre-school Inspection – Kingdom Playgroup, Kilkeel, County Down](#)

vegetables and use tongs competently to sort a variation of items. The children's representational artwork, which is displayed throughout the room, is good for the time of year. A majority of the children understand and use simple mathematical language associated with number, shape and time, as a natural part of their play. Most also manage the daily routines with minimum support from the staff.

The quality of provision has improved and is now good. The indoor learning environment is welcoming and well-resourced. The range of authentic and natural resources promotes well the children's learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff have worked in partnership with the management committee and the local community to enhance the outdoor area. As a result, there are improved opportunities for the children to develop their understanding of the world around them and to engage in energetic play. A more systematic approach to observation and assessment has been implemented recently by the staff and the short-term planning outlines more clearly the adults' role and the children's progression in learning. Consequently, the staff are increasingly more skilful in their interactions with the children; they use appropriate open-ended questions to encourage the children's thinking skills and develop their language.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now good. The new staff team work effectively together and have engaged in professional learning relating to planning, assessment, staff interactions, and self-evaluation. An appropriately targeted development plan is now in place and is evaluated regularly to measure progression. The staff are increasingly confident in articulating the impact of the improvement work on the learning environment and the children's learning. The role of parents to support the work of the pre-school, has been strengthened by an improved process for starting pre-school, regular online communication and the development of a monthly parents' newsletter.

Overall effectiveness

Kingdom Playgroup 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:

- the process of self-evaluation to monitor and evaluate the impact of planned development on the quality of provision and the outcomes for the children.

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