

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Little Diamonds Community
Playgroup, Claudy,
County Londonderry

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in October 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE DIAMONDS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, CLAUDY, BT47 4EA (2AB-0035)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Little Diamonds Community Playgroup¹ in March 2017, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all learners.

The pre-school's action plans were of a good quality. The pre-school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

In the interval since the initial inspection the pre-school received external support provided by an early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation, in relation to: planning, observations, special educational needs and self-evaluation.

During this period, other actions or changes which affect the work of the pre-school include a prolonged period of recruitment for a new deputy leader who took up post in October 2018.

Key findings

The outcomes for learners remain very good. The children are generally well-settled and play purposefully during most of the session. They display very good levels of independence and can access the resources they need for their play. Almost all of the children played collaboratively at times. They are confident in engaging with adults and the majority are beginning to show a good interest in early mathematics; using appropriate comparative language for measures and weight and engaging in sorting by colour or shape.

The quality of provision remains an important area for improvement. The playroom environment requires further development. While the staff have removed some of the resources and have organised better the entrance area, the playroom still has too many resources, posters and displays making it over-stimulating for the children. There are issues with inadequate storage facilities which the staff and the management committee still need to address. The weekly plans have been improved and now provide greater guidance to the staff in identifying the key learning and language to be developed. The plans are evaluated effectively to identify the needs and interests of the children. As a result the quality of the adult interactions remains consistently good. Better use is being made of the observations of the children's to assess their learning; however these need to be linked more effectively to inform the future planning.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remain an important area for improvement. The staff team is newly established and have not yet had the opportunity to work together on promoting improvement. The development plan has not been updated for the current year; however, previous development work had been planned and the impact monitored and evaluated. The staff have successfully improved the quality of provision for music and for construction play. The management committee provide good support to the staff and are committed to ensuring continued improvement.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection - Little Diamonds Playgroup, Claudy, County Londonderry | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

Overall effectiveness

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

- to ensure that the environment, both indoor and outdoor, is organised and used effectively to support high quality learning experiences; and
- to continue to develop the staff understanding and use of self-evaluation to promote improvement in the quality of provision and the outcomes for learners.

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

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