

Education and Training Inspectorate PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Little Diamonds Community Playgroup, Claudy, County Londonderry

Voluntary playgroup DE Ref No: 2AB-0035

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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Introduction

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Little Diamonds Community Playgroup in October 2018¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement are to:

- 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 playgroup's action plans were 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 an interim follow-up visit in May 2019 and a follow-up inspection in November 2019.

During this period, other actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup include:

- support provided by an early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation;
- the appointment of new staff and new members to the management committee; and
- the staff availing of professional development opportunities and leadership participating in a local pre-school cluster

Key findings

- The quality of provision is now very good. The playroom layout is welcoming and well-structured and provides very good opportunities for the children to engage in collaborative play and access additional resources to extend their learning. Consequently, the staff have an improved understanding of the opportunities to engage effectively with the children and enhance further their thinking skills and the development of their ideas. The outdoor play area has been extensively developed and provides an improved range of opportunities for the children to extend their learning experiences across all six areas of the curriculum. The staff continue to use effectively the children's own ideas, interests and opinions, alongside their observations of the children's learning, to inform future planning across the pre-school curriculum.
- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. Guidance from the early years specialist and access to professional development opportunities have enhanced the staff's understanding and use of self-evaluation. Recent improvement work to develop the indoor and outdoor learning environment has brought about measurable improvement in the progression and range of learning experiences for the children across the pre-school curriculum. While the staff have begun to measure the impact of all improvement work on the provision and the outcomes for the children, this work is not yet fully embedded. Further development is required to ensure appropriate priorities are identified and incorporated into the next three-year development plan.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-little-diamonds-community-playgroup-claudy-county-londonderry-2ab-0035.pdf>

Overall effectiveness

Little Diamonds Community 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 further and embedding the use of self-evaluation to measure the impact of improvement work on the outcomes for the children and the quality of the provision.

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