

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Little Folk Playgroup,
Rostrevor, County Down

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in November 2016



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE FOLK PLAYGROUP, ROSTREVOR (5AB-0336)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Little Folk Playgroup in December 2014¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement included the need:

- to develop further the processes for observing, assessing and recording the children's progress in their learning to inform the planning in order to meet better the children's specific individual needs; and
- for all those involved in the leadership and management of the playgroup to work together collaboratively to build more effective working relationships and to improve the capacity to carry out their individual and collective roles and responsibilities effectively, including the development of more rigorous processes for agreeing, recording and communicating decisions affecting the life and work of the playgroup.

The ETI carried out two interim follow-up visits in September 2015 and March 2016 with a follow-up inspection in November 2016.

The action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place;

- there have been significant changes in staffing, including the appointment of a new leader and deputy leader;
- the management committee has been reconstituted and members have been vetted appropriately;
- the staff and the management committee have received very good support from the early years specialist and the early years organisation;
- the outdoor play area has been landscaped and resourced; and
- the registration certificate from the Health and Social Services Trust has been obtained and is displayed on the parent notice board.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. Members of the management committee are clear about their roles and responsibilities and work collaboratively with the staff on the development and improvement agenda. The staff are developing well their understanding of self-evaluation. Recent improvement work on the design and installation of an outdoor learning environment, which is sympathetic to the local surroundings, has enhanced considerably the children's overall learning experience.

¹ https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/preschool-inspection-little-folk-playgroup-rostrevor-co-down_0.pdf

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. A consistent approach to planning and assessment of the children's progress is evident. The recently revised indoor planning guides well the staff in their interactions with the children and there are well-organised systems in place to track and assess individual children across their pre-school year. In going forward, it will be important for the staff to strengthen further the link between the planning and assessment to meet more effectively the needs of all of the children.

The standards and achievements are now good. The children settle very quickly to their chosen tasks and play happily alongside, and with, their peers in productive play. Particular strengths include the children's: good levels of independence; confident use of mathematical language; engagement in imaginative play; and, interest in books and mark making.

Overall Effectiveness

Little Folk Playgroup has demonstrated 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:

- using the assessment information to inform the short-term planning to meet more fully the individual needs of the children; and
- developing further the planning for outdoor play to include all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

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