

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Little People Pre-school Centre, Newry,
County Down

Voluntary, DE Ref No 5AB-0192

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Follow-up to the Inspection of Little People Pre-school Centre, Newry, BT35 0HN (5AB-0912)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Little People Pre-school Centre in January 2020¹, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- improve the cycle of planning, observation and assessment to ensure more consistency and clarity and to reflect more accurately the pre-school curricular guidance;
- embed the process of self-evaluation leading to improvement; and
- address the unsatisfactory arrangements for safeguarding.

ETI evaluated the progress in addressing the unsatisfactory arrangements for safeguarding in March 2020. On the basis of this evaluation, the unsatisfactory safeguarding had been addressed and the safeguarding provision reflected broadly the guidance issued by the relevant departments.

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 November 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external support from two independent early years specialists (IEYS) in relation to planning, observations and self-evaluation.

Over the same period, the key changes and actions which have affected the work of the pre-school are:

- the number of children enrolled in the pre-school has decreased, resulting in a number of staff now working part-time;
- the length of the daily session has been extended;
- the staff have now joined an early years' cluster;
- a new independent EYS has been recently appointed; and
- a new approach to the cycle of planning, observation and assessment has been introduced.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection – Little People Pre-school Centre, Newtownhamilton, County Down \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://www.etini.gov.uk)

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 very good.

Almost all of the children are making very good progress across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They are very well settled and are building friendships with each other as they engage in high quality, purposeful and sustained play throughout the playroom. Their perseverance, hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills are particular strengths as they: complete jigsaws; play with authentic loose parts in the construction area; and, use with increasing dexterity, the range of tools and stimulating resources in each of the play areas. The children's independence, creativity and curiosity are very well developed as they choose where they want to play, access their own resources and extend their play naturally and spontaneously.

The quality of provision remains good.

The recently introduced approach to planning, observation and assessment guides well the learning and teaching across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. There remains a need to ensure consistency in the quality of the observations and improve further the evaluations of learning to inform better future planning. The range of interesting and authentic resources stimulates the children's curiosity and thinking and promotes investigative and exploratory play. The staff interactions are consistently good or better; they engage skilfully with the children and use open-ended questions effectively to promote problem-solving and independent thinking.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership and management have improved and are now good.

The well-established staff and management committee work effectively as a team and are supported effectively in their work by their new EYS. A shared understanding and improved process of self-evaluation and action planning is now in place which has effected improvements in the cycle of planning, observation and assessment. The staff have identified the need to now embed both the recently introduced process of self-evaluation and the approach to planning, observation and assessment in order to continue to raise the quality of the provision and the outcomes for learners.

Overall effectiveness

Little People Pre-school Centre now demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interests of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the pre-school sustains improvement in:

- embedding the recently introduced process of self-evaluation and the approach to planning, observation and assessment to continue to raise the quality of provision and outcomes for learners.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2022

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the [ETI website](#)

Follow us on  [@ETI_news](#)  [@ETInews](#)  InsPIRE