

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Little Rays Pre-school,  
Lambeg, County Antrim

Private playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection  
in October 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LITTLE RAYS PRE-SCHOOL, LAMBEG, BT27 4QP (4CA-0623)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Little Rays Pre-School in May 2016<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were:

- to improve further the quality of the provision for learning across the areas of the pre-school curriculum for both indoor and outdoor play; and
- for the leadership and management, with the continued support of their early years specialist, to extend and develop the self-evaluation and development planning processes to bring about further improvements in the provision.

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

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

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the pre-school have taken place:

- the indoor and outdoor play areas have been reorganised and additional resources have been purchased;
- the organisation of the day, including transition and break routines, has been reviewed;
- a new member of staff has joined the team;
- all staff have availed of a range of capacity-building opportunities, which included aspects of leadership and management, outdoor play, music and creativity and provision for special educational needs; and
- the staff, with support of their independent early years' specialist, have devised a more systematic approach to carrying out observations and tracking progression of children individually.

### **Key Findings**

The children's outcomes are now very good. Almost all of the children are very well settled and engage in sustained, purposeful play. They are happy and stimulated in this environment and make very good progress across all areas of learning. The children play well together and interact confidently with adults. Their early mark making and representational artwork is of a high quality and they use mathematical language naturally during play.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eti.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-little-rays-day-nurseries-playgroup-lambeg-county-antrim>

The quality of the learning and teaching is now good. The indoor and outdoor areas are attractive, well-resourced and provide opportunities for learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children's independence and self-management skills are developing well owing to the ease of access to the resources and the well-embedded routines. The planning is over-focused on the play activities themselves; there is a need to develop a shared understanding of the learning inherent in these activities. The quality of the staff's interactions are mostly very good.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The staff articulate a shared commitment to improving the provision in the pre-school and are supported well by management and their independent early years' specialist. The staff now have a better understanding of self-evaluation leading to improvement and reflect regularly on the quality of the provision. It is important that they are afforded the time necessary to come together as a pre-school team to embed further the process of self-evaluation and continue to bring about improvement.

### **Overall Effectiveness**

Little Rays Pre-school 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:

- embedding further the process of self-evaluation leading to improvement; and
- identifying more explicitly the learning potential inherent in the planned play activities.

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