

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Little Smarties Pre-School, Garrison,  
Enniskillen, County Fermanagh

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No. 2AB-0340

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



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## Follow-up to the inspection of Little Smarties Pre-School, Garrison, Enniskillen, BT93 4ER (2AB-0340)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Little Smarties Centre in April 2019<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- develop the cycle of observation and assessment to inform future planning and ensure progression in learning for all children;
- develop the planning and provision for the Arts and the World Around Us;
- implement an effective development plan and action planning process, underpinned by cycle of self-evaluation to monitor the impact of the improvement work on the quality of the provision and outcomes for the children; and
- ensure that the staff have access to appropriate early years specialist knowledge and support.

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

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit in April 2022 and a follow-up inspection in November 2022.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the pre-school has received external support from an independent early years specialist (IDEYS) which included online and face-to-face training individually as a setting, and also with local pre-school cluster groups.

Over the same period, the key actions or changes which affect the work of the school include the:

- staff reviewing and amending the long, medium and short-term planning and the processes for observing the children's learning;
- staff visiting other pre-school settings, attending local pre-school cluster groups and engaging in professional learning;
- use of Department of Education funding, and close partnership work with the management committee and the local community to secure additional funding, for development of the indoor and outdoor learning environments; and
- completion of staff training in early language development with a Speech and Language therapist.

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<sup>1</sup> [Inspection Report – Little Smarties Playgroup, Garrison, County Fermanagh](#)

The pre-school's development plan and associated action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the inspection findings and the feedback given by the ETI.

## Key findings

### **The outcomes for learners have improved and are now very good.**

The children are happy, well settled and engage in sustained periods of productive play with independence and resilience. Their language and thinking skills are developing well through their confidence to communicate with their peers, the staff and visitors in order to share and obtain information. The children's mathematical ideas and concepts are developing appropriately through the daily indoor and outdoor routines. They use their imaginative and creative skills to produce drawings and collages of a very good standard for the time of the year. The children respond well to music, singing nursery rhymes, performing actions and dancing. They use their senses to explore freely the indoor and outdoor learning environment. The children's fine motor skills are a particular strength, with children using confidently a range of small tools and materials. The small outdoor area is used well by the children for energetic play and they have good spatial awareness.

### **The quality of provision has improved and is now very good.**

The staff plan a range of stimulating activities across all areas of the pre-school curriculum which provides good progression in learning. There is a comprehensive process for observing and assessing children's learning to inform how the staff support the children, both individually and as a whole class. The children's views are taken into consideration during curriculum planning and their opinions are added, where appropriate, to wall displays. Staff understanding of early language development has increased through their professional development with the speech and language therapist. Consequently, their skilful use of questioning and modelling of language is developing and extending the children's language and learning. The indoor and outdoor environments have well defined learning spaces, with appropriate books and a range of real and authentic materials, which promote effective learning across all areas of the curriculum.

### **The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now very good.**

The leadership and staff work collegially, are reflective practitioners and can clearly articulate the impact of the actions to promote improvement on the outcomes for learners and the quality of provision. They value the support and challenge provided by the IDEYS. The staff have moved beyond the areas for improvement from the original inspection, have identified further areas for improvement, and put in place good quality action plans and robust monitoring and evaluation processes to inform on-going quality improvement. Strategic use is made of Engage funding to develop the children's language skills through small group language focused activities; the impact of which has been demonstrated by the significant improvement in the children's understanding and use of language.

## Overall effectiveness

Little Smarties Pre-School now demonstrates a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all learners. The ETI will monitor how the preschool sustains improvement.

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