

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Loughshore Playgroup, Maghery, County Tyrone

Private Playgroup DE Ref No 5BB-0597

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



Providing Inspection services for:  
Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
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## Follow-up to the inspection of Loughshore Playgroup, Maghery, BT71 6PA (5BB-0597)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Loughshore Playgroup in March 2020<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely:

- to improve further the outcomes for children, in particular their mathematical knowledge and understanding and their investigative skills;
- to develop a shared and robust process of self-evaluation to improve the quality of the provision; and
- for the staff to develop a better understanding of the pre-school curriculum in order to meet more effectively the needs of all children and ensure progression in learning across all areas.

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 February 2022 and a follow-up inspection in November 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from an early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation (EYO) in relation to: progression within short-term planning; development planning and associated action planning; and, self-evaluation.

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

- appointment of a new leader and management committee; and
- appointment of a new EYS, provided through the EYO.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> [Pre-school Inspection – Loughshore Playgroup, Maghery, County Tyrone](#)

## Key findings

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

All of the children engage in sustained and purposeful play. They interact confidently with both peers and staff and follow well the daily routines, with minimum support. The children display very good fine motor skills when experimenting safely with the wide range of relevant tools, including spirit levels and tape measures, available in the construction area, and the authentic resources in the mark-making and home areas. The children's gross motor skills are also well-developed for the time of year; a majority of children use the wheeled vehicles to travel safely around an allocated area and climb confidently on the outdoor apparatus provided. The staff have an improved understanding of how to introduce mathematical vocabulary and use open-ended questions to extend the children's learning; this is resulting in an improvement in the children's understanding and use of simple mathematical language associated with number, shape and time, as a natural part of their play.

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

The layout of the indoor learning environment has been reorganised and now incorporates well-defined, distinct activity areas which promote learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff have utilised Department of Education funding and worked in close partnership with the management committee and the local community to develop the outdoor play facilities and resources. The enhanced provision is welcoming and now provides the children with access to a poly-tunnelled sensory garden area where the children can explore and plant and care for flowers and vegetables. The staff have reviewed and amended planning at all levels to outline more clearly the role of the adult and ensure progression in the children's learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Importantly, the staff have an improved understanding of how to engage effectively with the children in order to develop their mathematical vocabulary and thinking skills and incorporate the children's ideas into planning.

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

The new staff team work effectively together and have engaged in professional learning provided by the EYO to establish a more strategic approach to development planning. An improved development plan is in place and associated action plans identify most of the key actions required to improve both the provision and the children's outcomes. A new process for self-evaluation has also been established, with the support of the EYS. This process requires further adaptation to ensure staff can measure and communicate accurately the impact of their development work on the children's learning. The leadership has completed an accredited course in special educational needs which has supported the staff in identifying and planning for children who require additional support with aspects of their learning. Clear, well-defined procedures ensure there is effective communication with the management committee. The members of the committee are knowledgeable, have an excellent understanding of their role and exercise well their support and challenge function.

## Overall effectiveness

Loughshore Playgroup now 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:

- adapting further and embedding the recently established processes for self-evaluation and planning for improvement.

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