

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Primrose Hill Day Nursery, Ballyclare,
County Antrim

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 3CA-0643

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2022



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Follow-up to the inspection of Primrose Hill Day Nursery, Ballyclare, BT39 9NP (3CA-0643)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Primrose Hill Day Nursery in June 2019¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to continue to address important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- develop further a permanent pre-school staff team with a shared understanding and skill to implement fully high quality pre-school education;
- improve the systematic tracking of the children's progress and use this information to inform suitable progression in their learning; and
- continue to access external support to develop the skills and understanding of the leadership and management in order to sustain and build further on the improvements to date.

The pre-school's action plans were adjusted in response to the feedback given by the ETI. The pre-school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit in June 2021 and a follow-up inspection in June 2022.

In the interval since the last follow-up inspection, the playgroup has received external support from an early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation in relation to planning, observations and self-evaluation.

Over the same period, the key action which has affected the work of the pre-school is:

- the significant and ongoing changes to staffing.

As a consequence of the ongoing staffing changes within the pre-school there has been insufficient improvement in the quality of education as reported in the key findings below.

Key findings

The outcomes for learners remain as good. Almost all of the children follow the well-embedded routines. Most of them engage in purposeful and collaborative play for extended periods of time, particularly in the creative area indoors, during role play indoors and outdoors and in the outdoor construction area. The children's language and communication skills are developing well as they: talk about their learning and experiences with each other and with the adults; mark make for a range of purposes and using a range of resources; access books independently; and listen attentively and respond enthusiastically to the whole-group story.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection - Primrose Hill Day Nursery, Ballyclare, County Antrim 3CA-0643 \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://www.etini.gov.uk)

The quality of provision remains as having important areas for improvement. The cycle of planning, observation and assessment is underdeveloped; it does not focus sufficiently on intended learning and fails to reflect consistently the pre-school curricular guidance. The staff have created a positive and nurturing learning environment. They engage effectively with the children and their interactions are mostly of a good quality, as they model appropriate language and extend the children's thinking and vocabulary. Songs and rhymes are used purposefully throughout the session and particularly during key transition times.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership and management have not improved and now require significant improvement. There is no evidence of monitoring and evaluation and staff lack a shared understanding of how to use self-evaluation to bring about improvement. Recruiting and retaining staff continues to be a challenge for management and the frequent turnover of staff has impacted significantly on all aspects of planning for and effecting improvement. The leadership report that a lack of consistency in the support provided by the early years specialist has also impacted improvement.

Overall effectiveness

Primrose Hill Day Nursery has not sustained improvement and now needs to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners. The follow-up inspection has identified the need to:

- ensure continuity and consistency in staffing;
- develop a shared understanding of the pre-school curriculum in order to improve the quality of the cycle of planning, observations and assessment and raise further the outcomes for all children;
- build a shared understanding of and approach to self-evaluation; and
- improve collaborative leadership at all levels (management, staff and the EYS) in order to bring about the improvements required in the provision and in the leadership and management.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in 12-18 months.

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