

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Resurrection Playgroup,
Belfast

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in November 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF RESURRECTION PLAYGROUP, CAVEHILL ROAD, BELFAST, COUNTY ANTRIM, BT15 5BU (1AB-0422)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Resurrection Playgroup in June 2016, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The areas for improvement included the need to:

- develop further the methods of planning, assessment and evaluation to ensure a progressive programme for learning is developed that is based on accurate observations of the children responses;
- develop a progressive programme for the development of a wide range of the children's physical skills, and
- review aspects of the day, in particular the necessary routines, to ensure that all time is used much more effectively for learning.

The pre-school's action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI.

The ETI carried out two interim follow-up visits in January 2017 and April 2017, and a follow-up inspection in November 2017.

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

- a replacement early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation was appointed in October 2017;
- the leader has been proactive in establishing links with, and carrying out visits to high quality pre-school providers in the area and beyond, to help improve the quality of provision and standards within the playgroup;
- several new members have been appointed to the management committee; and
- a grant of £4,000 has been secured for the development of physical play resources.

Key Findings

Aspects of the effectiveness of leadership, management and the action to promote improvement remain important areas for improvement. Nevertheless, considerable work has been done to address those areas for improvement identified in the June 2016 report; much of this work has been carried out by the staff themselves without the support of an early years specialist (EYS). This unsatisfactory situation is now resolved. While key areas for continued development have been identified, the formal processes of self-evaluation and development planning leading to improvement remain at an early stage.

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. The staff have developed an effective approach to record keeping and assessment which incorporates relevant information about the children's progress and development; this information is used effectively to inform future learning and teaching. A varied programme, which includes appropriate themes and topics, is planned for the children and is suited well to their stage of development, individual needs and interests. Due to the poor quality of the outdoor area around the premises the physical play programme is confined largely to the playroom and large hall within the centre. Given

this significant restriction the staff plan a progressive programme for the development of a good range of the children's physical skills. The staff have identified appropriately the need to continue to develop the physical play programme on offer to the children. The staff have reviewed aspects of the daily timetable to ensure better use of time for quality learning and teaching. The quality of the staff interaction is good and promotes very well the children's learning across the remaining areas of the curriculum.

The standards and achievements are good. The children play an active role in activities and routines and engage well with the staff and each other. They are developing well their independence and produce representational work of a good standard that is age and stage appropriate for the time of year.

Overall Effectiveness

The Resurrection Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The ETI will monitor how the pre-school develops its working relationship with the newly-established management committee and recently-appointed EYS to consolidate and build on the improvements to date and ensure an effective process of self-evaluation leading to improvement.

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the follow up inspection the arrangements for safeguarding broadly reflect the arrangements of the relevant Departments. It is important that the management committee review formally and promptly the safeguarding arrangements and complete any necessary updates of policies.

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