

# Education and Training Inspectorate PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



## Rhyme Times Playgroup, Lisburn, County Antrim

Voluntary playgroup DE Ref No: 4AB-0515

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in January 2020



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
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## Introduction

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Rhyme Times playgroup in October 2018<sup>1</sup> which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were:

- to develop further the cycle of planning, observation and assessment to track progress in learning and meet more effectively the individual needs of all children; and
- to develop a more shared and strategic approach to self-evaluation and planning for improvement.

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

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2019 and a follow-up inspection in January 2020.

During this period, other actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup include:

- the playgroup has continued to receive external support provided by the Early Years Organisation;
- the playgroup has relocated to new premises; and
- the staff have visited a number of other settings.

## Key findings

The outcomes for learners are now very good. Almost all of the children, including those who require additional support with aspects of their learning, are making progress across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They follow with ease the well-established routines of the playgroup; choose independently where they wish to play and sustain purposeful play at their chosen area. The children's mark making and representational artwork is of a very good standard and almost all of them have a keen interest in books, accessing them independently during play and listening attentively during the group story. Most of the children's taking and listening skills are developing well. The children investigate and explore with curiosity the range of stimulating resources and learning activities available and talk with interest about the world around them during, for example, sand and water play and as they assume different roles during role play and at the construction area.

The quality of provision remains good. The staff have created a bright and welcoming playroom with a very good range of stimulating natural resources which promote well the children's curiosity and problem solving. The sensitive and skilful interactions by the staff support the children in developing further their self-esteem and confidence and extending their learning. A revised approach to the cycle of planning, observation and assessment has been introduced recently reflecting the pre-school curricular guidance and guiding well the learning and teaching; the staff have identified appropriately the need to embed further this process. There is large proportion of underage children in the setting, most of whom join at various times throughout the year; the staff manage this very well and have identified appropriately the need to develop further the planning processes to meet better the needs of the younger children. The outdoor provision is underdeveloped.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-rhyme-times-playgroup-lisburn-county-antrim>,

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The staff, with the support of the early years' specialist from the Early Years' Organisation, have developed a shared understanding of self-evaluation leading to improvement. A three-year plan is in place and appropriate priorities for improvement have been identified. There are currently too many action plans in place, the targets on which are not specific and measurable enough to ensure the process is manageable by the staff and enables them to monitor and evaluate the impact on the quality of provision and the outcomes for learners. The staff, management committee and early years' specialist work well collegially in the best interests of the children.

### **Overall effectiveness**

Rhyme Times Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement in:

- embedding the recently introduced approach to planning, observations and assessment; and
- ensuring the action planning process is manageable for the staff to bring about improvement and measure more effectively the impact on the quality of the provision and the outcomes for learners.

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