

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Richmount Playgroup,
Portadown, County Armagh

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF RICHMOUNT PLAYGROUP, PORTADOWN, BT62 1QU (5AB-0646)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Richmount Playgroup in November 2016, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement¹ in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were:

- to review the routines and daily transitions to maximise learning opportunities for learning for both indoor and outdoor play across the areas of the pre-school curriculum; and
- for the leadership and management to extend and develop self-evaluation and development planning to bring about improvements to the provision.

The pre-school did not submit a post-inspection action plan.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2017 and a follow-up inspection in May 2018.

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

- a new leader was appointed in November 2017;
- the playgroup are participating in a shared education programme with a local playgroup;
- the outdoor area has been developed and additional resources purchased; and
- the management committee and staff have received training on self-evaluation.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The new leader and staff work collegially as a team, are reflective in their practice and have developed a good understanding of self-evaluation. They have a clear and shared vision for the continuous improvement of the provision which is reflected in the well-constructed development plan and good quality action plans. Recent improvement work on developing outdoor play provides the children with appropriate levels of challenge and a broader range of learning experiences across the pre-school curriculum. The management committee has a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities and are well-informed about the work of the playgroup through the detailed reports from the leader at every meeting.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/preschool-inspection-richmount-playgroup-portadown-county-armagh-5ab-0646.pdf>

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. The staff interactions are consistently of a good quality. The staff listen to the children, build effectively on their ideas and develop well the children's thinking skills and investigation through problem-solving approaches. Through self-evaluation, the staff have identified appropriately the need to develop further the planning and make more effective use of observations of the children's learning to inform the short-term planning and ensure progression in learning. The children's individual education plans do not outline clearly enough the children's targets and appropriate strategies to support the children.

The standards and achievements are now very good. All of the children settle quickly to concentrated play which is sustained throughout the session. The revised routines, transitions and layout of the room have resulted in higher levels of independence and very good standards of behaviour. The children engage enthusiastically with the improved provision outdoors which develops well their curiosity and investigative skills. The children have a very good understanding of early mathematics; they count, match, sort, and use language associated with position and size. While the children enjoy rhymes and songs, a minority are not confident enough to join in.

Overall Effectiveness

Richmount 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 developing further planning and assessment methods to improve the overall quality of provision and outcomes for the learners.

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