

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Roe Valley Community
Playgroup, Limavady

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in December 2016



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ROE VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, LIMAVADY (2AB-0532)

The original inspection carried out in November 2013¹, concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of the children. The inspection identified the need to:

- develop further the methods of planning the programme of activities to ensure adequate progress is made in all areas of the curriculum throughout the year;
- improve the system for recording the children's progress and how the information is used to meet the children's differing needs;
- develop further the self-evaluative processes.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out interim follow-up visits in September 2014 and March 2015; and a follow-up inspection on 9 October 2015. The follow-up inspection identified continuing important areas for improvement including the need for:

- the planning to reflect the children's ages and stages of development and the activities need to progress their learning according to the requirements of the Pre-school Curricular Guidance;
- the early years specialist (EYS) to ensure that the staff are provided with clear direction, advice and guidance which enables them to self-evaluate and plan more effectively for improvement in the quality of the children's learning experiences and standards achieved in the playgroup; and
- the management group to oversee the improvement work and ensure that the staff have more effective support and challenge to improve the quality of the playgroup's programme.

A further interim visit was carried out in June 2016 and a follow-up inspection in December 2016.

Since the first follow-up inspection, the following actions or changes have taken place:

- a new leader was appointed and took up post in May 2016;
- links with the Early Years Organisation (EYO) have been re-established and an early years specialist provides regular support to the playgroup;
- the management committee of the proprietary charitable organisation Limavady Community Development Initiative (LSDI) has provided additional planning time each week for the playgroup staff and has initiated a significant programme of indoor and outdoor refurbishment in the playgroup; and
- the staff have visited another local playgroup to observe effective practice.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/preschool-inspection-roe-valley-community-playgroup-limavady.pdf>

Key Findings

- The children are confident in the daily routines; snack time is used effectively to promote independence and to develop early language. At storytime the children are very well settled; they listened with interest to the story and joined in enthusiastically with songs and rhymes.
- There are good and very good opportunities to promote learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Improvements are evident in the children's developing use and understanding of early mathematical language related to matching and sorting, number, measure and time.
- The children show an interest and enjoyment in reading and handle the books with care. Their early mark making and emergent writing skills are developing well and they speak to the adults and peers with confidence and respect.
- The children with additional learning needs are identified early and appropriate personal learning plans are in place. There is recorded evidence of the children making progress in their targets.
- The planned curriculum programme now provides appropriate interest, challenge and progression for the children. A themed approach to planning provides improved connected learning across the pre-school curriculum and the learning intentions are more focused on the outcomes for the children. Observations and assessments of the children's learning inform future planning and there are good opportunities for spontaneous play.
- The quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is good and at times very good. In the best practice the staff model appropriate vocabulary and use open-ended questioning to extend the children's learning. There is a consistent team approach to effective positive behaviour strategies.
- The available space within the playroom is well organised and used to provide the children with a range of activities. The outdoor area is currently reduced due to essential refurbishment work.
- The process for self-evaluation is developing well. The staff have identified appropriate priorities with a clearer focus on the impact on the children's learning. The actions to bring about improvement are well paced and the staff are beginning to gather appropriate evidence of improvement as part of the evaluation process. It will be important that the staff continue to embed the process of self-evaluation to bring about further improvement in the provision.
- There are more effective and regular links with the management committee; the actions within the improvement plan are well supported by the committee and there are improved lines of communication with regard to consultation, accountability and challenge.
- The representative from the EYO has provided very good support for the playgroup and has made a significant contribution to the improvement process.

Overall effectiveness

Roe Valley Community Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement, in particular, the need to develop further and embed the self-evaluation process leading to improvement in the children's learning experiences.

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