

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Roundabout Playgroup, Gortnaghey,
County Londonderry

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 2AB-0074

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in May 2024



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Department of Education
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Second follow-up to the inspection of Roundabout Playgroup, Gortnaghey, BT47 4QB (2AB-0074)

Introduction

Roundabout Playgroup is situated in the countryside of Gortnaghey near Dungiven. The 20 pre-school children attending the playgroup come from the surrounding rural community.

This follow-up inspection was carried out in May 2024 and provided the playgroup with the opportunity to demonstrate its progress in addressing the area for improvement identified at the time of the last follow-up inspection.

Views of parents, staff and pupils

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) issued an online confidential questionnaire to parents and staff in advance of the follow-up inspection.

A small number of parents responded to the questionnaire and responses were wholly positive. The parents who responded indicated that their child is happy and making progress in the playgroup, the staff take their views into account and help them support their child with their learning.

All of the staff responded to the questionnaire and their responses were also wholly positive.

Key actions

In the interval since the original inspection, the playgroup has received external support from an early years specialist (EYS) from the early years organisation (EYO) in relation to self-evaluation processes.

During this period, the key actions which affect the work of the playgroup include:

- the leader and deputy leader have participated in cluster meetings with EYS to develop further their knowledge of self-evaluation and action planning processes; and
- all staff have participated in relevant professional learning and development opportunities from external providers, with the focus on planning, observation and assessment.

Key findings

- Almost all of the children engage in collaborative play with the staff and their peers for sustained periods of time.
- Early mathematical language is promoted consistently and effectively by all staff and is used incidentally by almost all of the children during their play activities.
- The children are showing a good understanding of concepts in relation to number, colour and capacity.
- The staff provide good opportunities to develop the children's language and communication skills through the effective promotion of books during play.
- The outdoor area has been organised effectively to promote exploration and provide the children with additional opportunities to problem solve and develop investigative skills. Examples include: looking after plants in the environment; using books and pictures to reference wildlife; and, accessing natural materials to use as ingredients in the mud kitchen.
- The long-, medium- and short-term planning has been reviewed; it is more detailed and identifies appropriately the progression the children are to make across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- In the best practice, the staff use the observations of the children's learning to take account of the individual needs and interests of the children which is used to inform future planning.
- The staff have a good understanding of self-evaluation and are developing appropriate action plans which are linked to the development plan. In going forward, the development plan needs to be more strategic to ensure that monitoring and evaluating procedures are informing future action planning effectively, leading to progression in learning for each child.

Area for further consideration:

- to continue to develop and embed the process of self-evaluation leading to improvement for all children across the pre-school curriculum.

Child Protection

At the time of the follow-up inspection, the evidence provided by the playgroup demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance.

Going Forward

Roundabout Playgroup has developed well its processes for monitoring the provision, leading to improvement in the children's learning experiences and outcomes.


ETI will continue to monitor the progress of Roundabout Playgroup in addressing the area for further consideration as laid out in this report.

No further follow-up inspection is required.

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