

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

St Joseph's Community Playgroup, Galliagh,
County Londonderry

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 2AB-0045

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in October 2022



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Department of Education
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Follow-up to the inspection of St Joseph's Community Playgroup, Galliagh, BT48 8NU (2AB-0045)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of St Joseph's Community Playgroup in February 2019¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address the important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- use the observations and assessments of the children's learning to track individual progress, and to inform the short-term planning;
- improve the planning and provision for outdoor play; and
- develop a systematic approach to self-evaluation and planning for improvement to inform the development planning process and monitor the impact on the quality of the provision and the outcomes for the children.

The pre-school's action plans were adjusted in response to the feedback given by the ETI. The pre-school's development plan was also adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit on 15 October 2021 and a follow-up inspection on 10 October 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from an independent early years specialist in relation to: the development of practice for planning and assessment of the pre-school programme; and professional learning on monitoring and evaluation of action planning.

Over the same period, the key actions or changes which affect the work of the pre-school include:

- the appointment of a deputy leader;
- staff engaged in training on observations, planning and assessment for all areas of the pre-school curriculum; and
- staff attended cluster training focused on effective self-evaluation and development planning.

As a consequence of the external support and the key changes and actions taken within the pre-school, there have been improvements in the quality of education as reported in the key findings below.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection - St Joseph's Community Playgroup, Galliagh, County Londonderry 2AB-0045 \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://etini.gov.uk/Pre-School%20Inspection%20-%20St%20Joseph's%20Community%20Playgroup,%20Galliagh,%20County%20 Londonderry%202AB-0045)

Key findings

The outcomes for learners remain very good. Most of the children are well-settled for the time of year and engage in periods of sustained, productive play with the staff. They are confident in seeking support from the adults when needed to extend their learning. The children's fine and gross motor skills are well developed for the time of year; they use confidently a variety of writing tools, tongs, pegs and gardening tools in the outdoor area. A majority of the children participate in investigative play and explore with curiosity the range of stimulating resources in the outdoor environment.

The quality of provision remains good. The staff have developed well the outdoor learning environment with a wide range of natural and commercial materials. The planning for outdoor play provides good opportunities for the children to develop their knowledge and skills across the pre-school curriculum. The staff make effective use of open-ended questioning and model language during activities to extend the children's learning. The staff have reviewed their processes for planning, observation and assessment of the children's learning and, as a consequence the revised approaches are guiding well the learning and teaching. The staff have identified appropriately the need to embed this process to inform further their planning to meet the individual needs of the children.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now good. The leadership team and staff have developed their roles and responsibilities and work collaboratively with the early years specialist to effect improvement in the outcomes for learners and the quality of provision. An appropriate development plan is now in place and the associated action planning provides the required detail on how the planned improvement work is to be undertaken and monitored. The staff clearly articulate the impact of the improvement work on developing the learning environment and the planning and assessment cycle. They have identified appropriate areas for future development work through which they can embed the self-evaluation and development planning process and improve further the quality of provision and outcomes for learners.

Overall effectiveness

St Joseph's Community Playgroup's provision is now evaluated as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the pre-school sustains improvement in:

- embedding the processes for development planning and the associated actions to sustain improvement in the quality of provision for all learners.

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