

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Taylorstown Cross Community
Pre-School, Toomebridge,
County Antrim

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TAYLORSTOWN CROSS COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, (3AB-01332)

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an inspection of Taylorstown Cross Community Pre-school Centre in March 2017¹, which concluded that the pre-school centre needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The areas for improvement were to:

- develop the quality of the staff interactions with the children to promote more consistently a high level of learning and development across all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- develop the children's own imaginative and creative work, use of construction materials and sustained, independent collaborative play both indoors and outdoors; and
- review and develop the action plans to focus more clearly on the curriculum and link the evidence of improvements in the children's learning.

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

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place.

- Two members of staff acted up as leader and deputy leader during the follow-up inspection process.

Key findings

The outcomes for learners are now very good. The children are highly independent learners, spending sustained periods exploring activities and developing their own ideas during both indoor and outdoor play. They use a wide range of materials imaginatively and creatively to make models, explore patterns and make detailed representations of the world around them. Their behaviour is excellent; they negotiate, collaborate together and discuss their ideas as they take on roles in the hospital play, build in the construction areas and explore the pirate sand play and small world fairy garden. They are curious as they explore the real and natural items provided with enthusiasm and interest. Children identified as requiring help with aspects of their learning are well integrated and are making very good progress.

The quality of provision is now very good. The high quality of the staff interactions to promote learning is now a key strength within the pre-school centre. The staff have higher expectations of the children and are consistent in implementing productive play. They encourage and build very effectively on the children's own creative ideas, ask appropriate open ended questions to extend their thinking, and develop the children's communication skills by modelling key vocabulary and promoting well the use of books. The staff interaction is guided well by the revised planning and prompts around the room which highlight more clearly the role of the adult to support learning. The effective reorganisation of the start of the day, combined with the addition of new resources and the improved layout of the learning environment both indoors and outdoors, have contributed significantly to raising the quality of the provision.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/preschool-inspection-taylorstown-cross-community-preschool-toomebridge-county-antrim-3ab-0132.pdf>

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement are now very good. The whole staff team have developed their skill and confidence through a more collegial and distributive model of leadership and management. The training and guidance provided by the independent early year's specialist has been closely linked to the priorities on the action plans and implemented effectively by the staff to develop their skills. The staff have consulted with parents and used their views to inform and amend aspects of their practice. The committee support the staff well and contribute to the improvement process. The action plans and the tracking of improvements is closely linked to the progress in the children's learning and tracked more effectively through their observations.

Overall effectiveness

Taylorstown Cross Community Pre-school Centre demonstrates a high capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all learners. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement.

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