

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

## PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

The Dry Arch Children's Centre, Dungiven,  
County Londonderry

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No (2AB-0047)

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in December 2022



Providing Inspection services for:  
Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
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## Follow-up to the inspection of The Dry Arch Children's Centre, Dungiven, BT47 4QL (2AB-0047)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of The Dry Arch Children's Centre in November 2019<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely, to develop:

- the children's use of mathematical language and problem solving skills;
- the staff's knowledge and understanding of the pre-school curriculum to plan for progression for learning for all the children; and,
- the staff's understanding and use of development planning and self-evaluation processes leading to improvement in the quality of 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 in June 2022 and a follow-up inspection in December 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and online training from an early years specialist (EYS), from the Early Years Organisation (EYO) in relation to: observation, planning and assessment and, self-evaluation and development planning.

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

- appointment of a new leader in August 2022; and
- allocation of a new EYS in February 2022.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> [Pre-School Inspection - The Dry Arch Children's Centre, Dungiven, County Londonderry 2AB-0047 \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://etini.gov.uk)

## Key findings

### **The outcomes for learners have improved and are now very good.**

The children are making very good progress across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Their understanding of key mathematical concepts is developing very well, and they use early mathematical language associated with number, shape, colour, and comparison of size as a natural part of their play and daily routines. All of the children are well-settled and engage enthusiastically in play activities for sustained periods of time. The children's understanding of language is progressing well in line with their individual stages of development. Almost all of the children listen attentively and respond confidently to the regular stories and rhymes throughout the day.

### **The quality of provision has improved and is now good.**

The staff create a nurturing, child-centred learning environment which is appropriately resourced. They use open questioning and sensitive interactions skilfully to support and extend play and encourage the children to express their feelings and emotions. The staff are developing a well-informed understanding of the pre-school curriculum, including a particular focus on developing the children's mathematical learning and their use of early mathematical language. The weekly planning guides the staff effectively in their day-to-day work with the children. The evaluations of learning are used well to respond to the children's interests and needs. The staff are trialling currently new methods of assessment; they recognise the need to develop these further to provide a more systematic tracking of progress across each area of the curriculum.

### **The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now good.**

The newly established staff team work together effectively. They are developing a culture of self-reflection and evaluation and can articulate clearly the areas requiring improvement. As a result, they have made a number of constructive changes which are already having a positive impact on the children's progress. These include re-designing the indoor learning environment and reviewing the resources they use to include more authentic and natural materials. They are supported very well in their work by the day-care manager and the EYS from the EYO. It will be important that management aim to secure consistency in the leadership of the setting to enable reviewed practices to be further developed and embedded.

## Overall effectiveness

The Dry Arch Children's Centre now demonstrates 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 their processes for observing and assessing the children's learning to inform future planning.

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