

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Tiny Tots Pre-school Centre,
Toomebridge, County Antrim

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TINY TOTS PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE, (3AB-0371)

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an inspection of Tiny Tots Pre-school Centre in March 2017, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The areas for improvement were to:

- develop the skill and understanding of the staff in how to use planning and assessment to ensure progression across all areas of the pre-school curriculum and to meet the specific needs and interests of individual children;
- improve the quality of learning and teaching during outdoor play; and
- develop effective self-evaluation, action planning and relevant staff training at all levels of leadership and management including the early years specialist.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 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.

- A new independent early year's specialist took up post in September 2018.
- The leader has completed her level five leadership qualification.
- A new chairperson is in place.

Key Findings

The outcomes for learners are now very good. Almost all of the children are highly engaged in their learning both indoors and outdoors. They are progressing well across all areas of the pre-school curriculum and, in particular, their communication skills, investigative, creative and imaginative play. The children all participate and respond well to large group sessions.

The quality of provision is now good. The staff are more confident and effective in planning for progression in the learning experiences. As a result there are good to very good opportunities for learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The improvements made to the layout of the room and presentation of resources, both indoors and outdoors, provide better space and a more challenging and language rich learning environment. The staff interactions to promote learning are consistently of a good or better quality during both indoor and outdoor play. Assessment of the children's progress is more systematically recorded and is beginning to be used more effectively to inform the planning process.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement are now good. The staff make meaningful weekly evaluations of the provision which are focused more clearly on the extent of the learning taking place; they can identify clearly their strengths and areas requiring further development. The training and support of the new IEYS is valued by the staff and is contributing positively to improvements in the quality of the provision. There is regular communication between the leader and the new committee.

Overall Effectiveness

Tiny Tots Pre-school Centre demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all learners. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement in:

- accessing further training and developing more focused individual education plans for children identified with additional needs;
- developing further their processes for planning and assessment; and
- developing further the processes for self-evaluation leading to continuous improvement with the support of the early years specialist.

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