

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Washingford Playgroup, Dungannon,
County Tyrone

Private Playgroup, DE Ref No 5CA-0618

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
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Follow-up to the inspection of Washingford Playgroup, Dungannon, BT71 7BG (5CA-0618)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Washingford Playgroup in June 2019¹, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address the important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- develop further the cycle of observations and planning, to ensure progression in learning for all children; and
- to develop the monitoring and self-evaluation processes in order to improve further the quality for all the children across all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

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 March 2022 and a follow-up inspection in November 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from an early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation in relation to: the observation, planning and assessment of learning; monitoring and self-evaluation processes relating to the setting's development planning; and supporting children with special educational needs.

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 September 2021; and
- an increase in children presenting with special educational needs.

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.

Key findings

The outcomes for learners remain good.

Almost all of the children are well-settled and engage in sustained and purposeful play. They interact confidently with peers from a wide variety of nationalities. Almost all of the children, including those who have English as a second language, have a good understanding of the spoken English used by the adults and are using single words

¹ [Follow-up Inspection – Washingford Playgroup, Dungannon, County Tyrone](#)

and phrases naturally as they speak to each other and to the staff. A majority of the children understand and use simple mathematical language associated with number, shape and time, as a natural part of their play. They also experiment imaginatively with the wide range of materials provided and respond creatively to both the indoor and outdoor stimuli provided. Almost all of the children follow well the daily routines and participate confidently in tidying up and snack time, with minimum support from the staff.

The quality of provision remains good.

The indoor learning environment is welcoming, resourced with an appropriate range of authentic resources, and motivates the children to engage in a range of activities, across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The children's work is displayed and celebrated throughout the room. The outdoor grass area is used frequently and provides good opportunities for the children to explore and engage in energetic play. The staff have identified appropriately the need to develop further the outdoor provision to ensure that children have access to all areas of the pre-school curriculum when outdoors. The staff use well a range of contextual and visual cues to support the children's developing understanding of the English language. A more systematic approach to observation and assessment of the children's progression in learning has now been implemented by the staff. Consequently, there is a significant improvement in the staff's ability to observe and evaluate learning consistently and use their assessments to inform the future planning to meet the needs of all children.

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

The new staff team work together effectively and have engaged in professional learning provided by the early years organisation which has impacted positively on aspects of the provision. The staff have prioritised appropriately the need to extend their range of strategies to support children with additional needs; this is outlined clearly in an adjusted development plan. The associated action plans focus specifically on the needs of the current cohort of children and are evaluated regularly to measure progression. The staff are confident in articulating the impact of this improvement work on the learning environment and the children's learning.

Overall effectiveness

Washingford Playgroup 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 the development of the planning and provision for outdoor play.

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