

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Keady Community Playgroup
(Den in the Glen), Keady,
County Armagh

Report of an Inspection in
February 2016

eti

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Quantitative terms used by the Education and Training Inspectorate

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

Performance levels

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) use the following performance levels when reporting on Achievement and standards, on Provision for learning and on Leadership and management:

Outstanding
Very good
Good
Important area(s) for improvement
Requires significant improvement
Requires urgent improvement

Overall effectiveness

The ETI use one of the following inspection outcomes when evaluating the overall effectiveness of the school:

The nursery school / playgroup has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the nursery school / playgroup sustains improvement.
The nursery school /playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the nursery school/ playgroup sustains improvement.
The nursery school/ playgroup needs to address (an) important area(s) for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor and report on the nursery school's/ playgroup's progress in addressing the area(s) for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.
The nursery school / playgroup needs to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all learners. It requires external support to do so. The ETI will monitor and report on the nursery school's / playgroup's progress in addressing the areas for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.

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1. Inspection method and evidence base

The key questions and quality indicators which guide inspection and self-evaluation of pre-school settings, which were applied to this inspection, are available in the ETI publication *Together Towards Improvement: a process for self-evaluation* at: [Together Towards Improvement Pre-school | Education and Training Inspectorate](#)

Inspectors observed learning and teaching through play, the children's achievements and standards, scrutinised relevant documentation, and held formal and informal discussions with children, and staff with specific responsibilities.

The arrangements for this inspection included:

- a discussion with the staff;
- a meeting with those involved with leadership and management including the management group; and
- the opportunity for the parents and staff to complete a confidential questionnaire.

A small number of parents and all of the staff completed the online confidential questionnaires. The parental responses indicated high levels of satisfaction with the provision. In particular, the parents highlighted the helpful and friendly staff and the progress of the children. The staff responses were wholly positive, highlighting the important role of the playgroup within the local community.

2. Focus of inspection

In order to promote improvement in the interest of all children, the purpose of inspection is, through effective linking of internal and external approaches, to evaluate the:

- children's achievements and standards;
- quality of provision for learning; and
- quality of leadership and management.

3. Context

Keady Community Playgroup is situated in purpose-built accommodation in Keady village. All of the staff have been in post since the last inspection. The playgroup has recently had a change of early years specialist (EYS) from the Early Years Organisation. The staff operate a HighScope programme.

4. Overall findings of the inspection

Overall effectiveness	Important area for improvement
Achievements and standards	Good
Provision for learning	Good
Leadership and management	Important area for improvement

5. Achievements and standards

- Almost all of the children are well-settled for the time of year. They collaborate well during play and are polite and respectful in their engagement with adults and one another. The children demonstrate high levels of independence when choosing activities, tidying up resources and managing their snack routine. Overall, the children display a very positive attitude to learning.
- Most of the children are confident in their interaction with adults. They are attentive during the group story session and have a good interest in books. Most of the children access an appropriate range of writing tools and materials and are developing well their pre-writing skills through planning and reviewing their play activities.
- During the inspection, the children were observed engaging in early mathematical activities and are developing an appropriate understanding of shape, number, sorting and pattern. The children need more opportunities to develop their creativity in the arts both indoors and outdoors.

6. Provision for learning

- The staff have worked diligently to provide an attractive and child-centred learning environment. They make very good use of daily routines to develop the children's personal skills and promote social responsibility in caring for their environment.
- On the day of inspection, the staff interactions were consistently good and, on a significant minority of the occasions, very good. In the best practice observed, the adults responded effectively to the children's interests and ideas and used skilful questioning to promote their thinking.
- The planning demonstrates that the children have good opportunities for learning in most areas of the curriculum. The staff have established recently an outdoor garden which provides the children with good opportunities to grow vegetables and plants, promoting further their interest in the natural environment. In going forward, it will be important for the staff to develop the planning for outdoor play to ensure that the children have appropriate opportunities to develop their learning across all areas of the curriculum.
- The staff know the children very well and record insightful observations to assess the children's progress. The children who have additional needs are supported appropriately by the staff.
- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery school is very good. A welcoming ethos pervades the playgroup and very positive working relationships are evident at all levels. All staff are fully committed and dedicated to the children in their care.
- The staff give very good attention to promoting healthy eating through the promotion of healthy foods in the snack routine, baking activities and growing fruits and vegetables in the raised garden beds outdoors. The regular outdoor play sessions provide good opportunities for the children to engage in physical activity.

7. Leadership and management

- The experienced staff work effectively and collaboratively as a team. The staff, working in partnership with the members of the management committee, are fully committed to the best outcomes for the children and the families in the area.
- The playgroup's development planning processes are at an early stage of development. While the development plan outlines a number of priorities for future improvement, there is a need for the staff, with the support of the newly appointed EYS, to monitor and evaluate the impact of their work in improving the learning experiences of the children.
- There are good links with the parents who are kept well informed about events within the playgroup through the parents' information board, the informative newsletters and numerous parent meetings. The staff have also developed good links with local primary schools.
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the playgroup has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The following areas need to be addressed:
 - the member of the management committee with responsibility for child protection needs updated training; and
 - the chair of the management committee needs to sign the record book regarding complaints on an annual basis.

8. Overall effectiveness

Keady Community Playgroup needs to address an important area for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor and report on the playgroup's progress in addressing the area for improvement which includes the need to:

- develop the process of self-evaluation and development planning in order to bring about further improvement to the arts and outdoor play provision.

There will be a formal follow-up inspection in 12 to 18 months.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON KEADY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, DEN IN THE GLEN, KEADY

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1
Attending full-time	0
Attending part-time	14
Under 3 years of age*	0
Funded by Department of Education	14
With statement of special educational needs	0
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	1
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	0
With English as an additional language	7
Who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0

* On 1 July.

** The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	
Average attendance for the previous year.	
Number of days open in previous school year	

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
0	9.15 am-12.00 midday	1.30 pm-3.00 pm

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Staff including, Teachers/Leaders	3	
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification	3	
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	0	
New appointments within the previous 12 months	0	

Number of: ***	
Students	1
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year

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