



*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**



## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Aghagallon Playgroup  
Craigavon**

**February 2012**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF AGHAGALLON PLAYGROUP, CRAIGAVON, CO ARMAGH, BT67 0AR (5AB-0202)**

The inspection in June 2009 highlighted strengths in the playgroup's welcoming ethos, the provision of a wide range of play activities and interest areas for the children, the dedicated, hard-working and committed team and the satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the methods of planning to guide the staff more effectively in their day-to-day work with the children and raise the overall quality of the children's learning; and
- to review the layout of the playroom in order to create clearly defined learning areas and exploit more effectively the learning potential of the activities provided for the children.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- the playgroup has relocated to new mobile accommodation in the grounds of St Patrick's Primary School;
- the staff has worked hard to overcome the few limitations regarding the premises, for example, the space within the playroom is limited and the toilets are located outside the playgroup and require a member of staff to accompany the children;
- the staff carried out visits to two other pre-school playgroups to observe their learning environments; and
- the issue of inconsistent early years specialist support (EYS) from the Early years Organisation (EYO) has been resolved to the satisfaction of the management and staff.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 27 February 2012.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the 2009 inspection findings was of good quality.

The playgroup's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings and the relocation of the playgroup.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection in 2009:

- the staff and children have settled well into their new accommodation;
- very good use is being made of the available space to create an attractive learning environment that is well laid out into distinct areas for play;
- the staff have reviewed their planning format and use it effectively to guide them in their work;

- there is effective teamwork among the staff who are focused on implementing strategies to promote settled and purposeful play and to help ensure that time is used effectively to promote learning;
- the staff have made a good start in the process of self-evaluation; and
- aspects of the daily timetable have been reviewed.

The area which requires further improvement is:

- the need to review aspects of the snack routine, particularly the children's preparation for this activity, and to ensure that all opportunities to promote further the children's language development are availed of throughout the routine.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now good. The playgroup has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2012

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:  
[www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)

