



*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

**Cregagh Pre-School Playgroup
Belfast**

February 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF CREGAGH PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP, BELFAST, BT6 0FL (4BB-0162)

The inspection of Cregagh Pre-school Playgroup in January 2010 highlighted strengths in the range of activities provided; the use of the outdoor space; the settled children; the instances of purposeful play; and the improvements that had been made to the learning environment.

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

- to review and improve the child protection policy and procedures;
- to ensure that the administration and management of the pre-school centre meets fully the requirements as set out by Department of Education (DE) for groups receiving funding as part of the Pre-school Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP);
- to develop further the methods for planning and evaluating the provision, and for assessing the children's progress; and
- to ensure that the quality of the interaction of the staff is consistently of a high standard to support the children in their learning.

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

- the staff have received regular focused support from their new permanent early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation;
- the leader and deputy have received appropriate training for their new roles as designated and deputy designated person responsible for child protection matters;
- information regarding child protection matters is now shared with the parents and displayed within the playgroup;
- a review of the child protection procedures and protocols has taken place and staff are now familiar with their roles and responsibilities;
- a parent has joined the playgroup's management group;
- the staff now plan together to develop the programme for learning;
- the playroom has been refreshed and the layout and presentation of activities and displays improved to provide a more interesting and stimulating learning environment for the children;
- better use is being made of the children's own work to provide attractive displays throughout the playgroup; and
- additional resources of good quality have been purchased to enhance the children's learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit in March 2011 and a follow-up inspection on 2 February 2012.

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

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the improvements to the child protection policy and procedures that are now shared with the parents and provide better safeguarding procedures and protocols for the children and the staff;
- the review of the planning now includes many interesting and stimulating learning opportunities for the children;
- the new planning is supporting the staff in their involvement with the children; they are more focused on the learning to be promoted through the planned activities and as a result the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is now more consistently of a high standard;
- the staff are recording more appropriate observations of the children's learning and development and are beginning to use the information to inform the future planning; and
- the management group is now more involved in providing the support and materials needed by the staff to provide good quality pre-school provision.

The areas which require further improvements are:

- the management group need to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in order to meet the regulations for all centres receiving government funding;
- the staff and management group need to encourage more members of the local community to join the management group to ensure a more balanced representation from the local community; and
- the staff and the management group should continue to build on the very good progress made in all of the areas for improvement identified in the inspection.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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