

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Bo Peep's Playgroup, Boho, County Fermanagh

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No (2AB-0528)

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2022



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Follow-up to the inspection of Bo Peep's Playgroup, Boho, BT74 5BE (2AB-0528)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Bo Peep's Playgroup in February 2019¹, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners, namely:

- to improve the opportunities for the children to develop their physical skills and their learning opportunities within the arts;
- to improve the cycle of observation and assessment to inform future planning and ensure progression in learning for all children;
- to develop and implement an effective development plan and action planning process, underpinned by a cycle of self-evaluation, to monitor the impact of this work on the quality of the provision and outcomes for the children;
- for the management committee, with the continued support of the early years specialist, to develop further the understanding of their roles and responsibilities; and
- for the management committee to appoint urgently an additional member of staff and to provide additional planning and preparation time for the staff team.

The pre-school's action plans were reviewed in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The pre-school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2019, a monitoring visit in May 2021 and a follow-up inspection in June 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external support from the Early Years Organisation (EYO) through a 12-week support programme and also training for the management committee.

Over the same period, the key actions or changes which affect the work of the pre-school include:

- the additional arrangements made by the management committee to ensure adequate leadership and levels of staffing in the playgroup in the absence of a permanent leader;
- the development of the structure of the management committee to include specific roles and responsibilities for supporting continuity of learning; and
- the commitment of the management committee to the monitoring of the pre-school programme and to developing its support and challenge functions.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection – Bo Peeps Playgroup, Boho, County Fermanagh](#)

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 as good. Almost all of the children settle quickly to concentrated play which is sustained throughout the session. They show respect and responsibility for their environment and for one another during their activities and daily routines. The children can select, access and use independently the resources they need for their play. Their fine motor skills are good; particularly when peeling and chopping vegetables and filling and pouring with accuracy in the indoor and outdoor kitchen role play areas. The children's mark-making and representational drawings show good progression throughout the academic year. The pre-school provides a language-rich environment which is impacting positively on the children's oral communication skills. The children use early mathematical language confidently and accurately throughout many aspects of their play.

The quality of provision remains as having important areas for improvement. The staff have worked collaboratively with the early years specialist to establish new processes for planning, observing and assessing the children's learning. These processes are, however, not yet used consistently enough by the staff to ensure an improved progression in learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Both the playroom and the recently developed outdoor play area are welcoming and have well-defined areas of learning which provide a good range of opportunities for the children to extend their learning experiences across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum. Staff interactions with the children are good, with the effective use of open-ended questions to develop the children's language and thinking skills and the development of their ideas.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now good. The leadership team and staff have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and work collaboratively with the early years specialist to effect improvement in the outcomes for learners and the quality of provision. The management committee has employed an additional member of staff and ensured appropriate time is available to the staff team for planning and preparation. More open and consistent communication between the management committee and the staff has resulted in an improvement in staff morale and an increasingly collaborative approach to planning for learning and teaching. A development plan is in place and the associated action planning provides appropriate detail on how the improvement work planned is to be undertaken and monitored. The leadership and staff have improved and developed links with outside support agencies, including educational psychology and speech and language therapy which have provided essential guidance for the staff and impacted positively on the progression of the children's learning.

Overall effectiveness

Bo Peep's Playgroup needs to continue to address remaining important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following areas for improvement:

- to embed the recently established long-, medium- and short-term planning processes and ensure sufficient progression across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum; and
- to embed the use of observation and assessment to inform future planning and ensure appropriate progression in learning for all of the children.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in 12 to 18 months.

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