



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
Department for Communities



**Education and Training Inspectorate**

**Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Busy Bee Cross-Community Playgroup  
Maghera**

**May 2016**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BUSY BEE CROSS-COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, MAGHERA (3BB-0359)**

The last inspection carried out in October 2014 concluded that the playgroup needed to address an important area for improvement in the interest of all the learners<sup>1</sup>.

The area for improvement was the need for the staff to continue to develop and embed improvements made to date in order that the planned programme is more fully informed by the ongoing observations and assessments of the children's progress, thereby ensuring progressive levels of challenge for the children throughout the year.

The Education and Training inspectorate (ETI) carried out two monitoring visits during 2015 and 2016 with a follow-up inspection in May 2016. The action plans following the inspection were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI during the interim visits.

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

- there were changes in staffing and the respective roles and responsibilities, including the appointment of a new leader and staff member in 2014;
- the management committee was reconstituted, including the appointment of a new chairperson;
- the staff and the committee undertook relevant training;
- improvements were made to the indoor and outdoor play areas;
- the staff sought the views of the parents through questionnaires;
- key policies and procedures were reviewed, updated and evaluated; and
- the staff received relevant guidance and support from an independent early years specialist.

### **Key findings**

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now very good. There is consistent evidence that the staff combine productively their defined roles and responsibilities resulting in an effective strategic team approach to leading and managing all aspects of the child-centred provision. Working collaboratively with the highly committed management committee, the staff can identify clearly the strengths in their work and the relevant priority areas for further development.
- The staff have developed further their shared understanding of progression in learning and use their complementary skills to good effect in delivering the planned programme to match the children's particular interests and stages of development. This is reflected in the evidence of the detailed links between the planning and the observations and assessments to ensure that all of the children make progress in relation to their individual needs.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-pre-school-centre-and-nursery-school/inspection-reports-pre-school-2014/follow-up-inspection-busy-bee-cross-community-playgroup-maghera.pdf>

- The comprehensive, daily evaluations impact directly on the future planning; the staff's well-considered provision of stimulating and unusual natural materials, more challenging tools and authentic real-life items is matched carefully to the children's interests and development needs. As a result, the quality and extent of the children's learning through play, including frequent and varied incidental opportunities for additional learning, are of a high standard.
- The carefully planned improvements to the indoor and outdoor play areas ensure that all of the space is being used effectively to develop the children's curiosity and independence and to widen continuously the variety of their learning experiences.
- The staff listen closely to and build skilfully on the children's contributions, asking effective questions to develop further the children's thinking. They make consistent use of the play activities and daily routines to connect and extend the children's knowledge and skills through meaningful child-led, sensory learning experiences.
- The children settle quickly and attentively to their chosen tasks and spend lengthy periods in sustained and productive play. Particular strengths include: their confident use of mathematical and topic-specific vocabulary; their curiosity and excitement about the world around them and their investigative approaches which are integral to their play; and, their standards and achievements which are now very good.
- The parents and the local community are involved more closely in the life and work of the playgroup; the parents, staff and representatives of the management committee report that the playgroup's communication with, reputation in, and support from, the local community have improved significantly.

### **Overall effectiveness**

Busy Bee Cross-Community Playgroup has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2016

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)