

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Chapel Road Community Playgroup,
Londonderry

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 2BB-0565

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Follow-up to the inspection of Chapel Road Community Playgroup, BT47 2BD (2BB-0565)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Chapel Road Community Playgroup in February 2019¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address the important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- improve the children's use of mathematical language, problem solving and understanding of early mathematical concepts;
- make effective use of the observations and assessment of the children's learning to inform planning and provide progression for all of the children;
- develop more rigorous self-evaluation and associated action planning, in order to bring about, improvement in the quality of provision and the outcomes for the children; and
- ensure that all staff hold the required level of qualification to work as a playgroup assistant.

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

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit on 15 November 2021 and a follow-up inspection on 17 November 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the pre-school has received external guidance and training from the early years specialist in relation to: planning and assessment of the pre-school programme; and, monitoring and evaluation of action planning.

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

- the appointment of a new leadership team and pre-school assistant; and
- all staff attended a wide range of capacity-building opportunities on aspects of leadership and management and provision for learning, visited another pre-school setting and accessed training through cluster groups.

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.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection - Chapel Road Community Playgroup, County Londonderry 2BB-0565 \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://www.etini.gov.uk)

Key findings

The outcomes for learners have improved and are now very good.

Most of the children follow with ease the well-established routines of the playgroup, choose independently where they wish to play, and sustain purposeful play at their chosen area. They are confident conversing and seeking support from the adults when needed in order to extend their learning. The children's fine and gross motor skills are developing well; they use confidently a variety of writing tools, tongs, utensils in the home corner and tools in the outdoor area. They investigate and explore with curiosity the range of stimulating natural resources, using their senses to describe, explore, and make predictions. Nearly all of the children have a very good understanding of early mathematical concepts and use appropriate mathematical language in various contexts across the areas of play.

The quality of provision has improved and is now good.

The staff plan a good range of interesting activities which promote effective learning in almost all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They make effective use of open-ended questions and model language well, including mathematical vocabulary, during activities to extend the children's learning. A revised approach to the cycle of planning, observation and assessment has been introduced recently which reflects the pre-school curricular guidance. Staff are beginning to use the outcomes of the regular observations and assessments of the needs of the children to inform the planning. The staff have identified appropriately the need to embed this process as it is not yet sufficiently systematic and consistent.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now good.

The newly established staff team have developed their roles and responsibilities and work collaboratively with the early years specialist and management committee in the best interests of the children. A three-year development plan is in place and appropriate priorities for improvement have been identified. The staff can articulate clearly the impact of their improvement work on the learning environment and the planning and assessment cycle. They have also identified appropriate areas for future development work, through which they can embed the self-evaluation and development planning process, to improve further the quality of provision and outcomes for learners.

Overall effectiveness

Chapel Road Community Playgroup now demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the pre-school sustains improvement in:

- embedding the approach to planning, observations and assessment; and self-evaluation.

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