

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Derrytrasna Playgroup,
Craigavon, County Armagh

Voluntary

Report of a Follow-up inspection in
January 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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**FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DERRYTRASNA PLAYGROUP, CRAIGAVON
(5BB-0416)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Derrytrasna Playgroup in June 2015¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement included the need:

- to apply the behaviour management strategies more consistently with the small number of children who become less settled or engaged at times;
- for the staff to exploit fully the learning potential of all the activities and routines;
- to develop further the planning as identified in the report; and,
- to develop further the processes of self-evaluation and development planning.

The ETI carried out two interim follow-up visits in January and September 2016 with a follow-up inspection in January 2017. The action plans completed following the inspection were adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the ETI.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following key actions which affect the work of the pre-school have taken place;

- one member of staff has acquired NVQ level 3 qualification;
- a temporary deputy leader has been in post from January 2017;
- the staff have implemented a new weekly planning format; and
- the staff have attended a range of relevant staff development and training including accessing training in behaviour management and conflict resolution.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an important area for improvement. A good start has been made to self-evaluation, for example, the improved snack routine is now being used well to promote the children's mathematical thinking and independence. However, the staff need to embed self-evaluation more widely and demonstrate more clearly improvement in learning, teaching and outcomes for the children.

The quality of learning and teaching remains an important area for improvement. While the staff have implemented short-term planning which is differentiated clearly for the two distinct age groups, the themes and topics are not carried forward for a sufficient period of time to enable the children to make progress. Some of the intended learning is too formal and is more closely aligned to the content of the foundation stage curriculum than to the pre-school curriculum. The staff observe the children's learning regularly, record it accurately and are beginning to reflect their observations well in the short-term planning. The quality of interaction between adults and children is good in the playroom but is less effective and needs to be developed further in the outdoor play area.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/preschool-inspection-derrytrasna-playgroup-craigavon-co-armagh.pdf>

The standards and achievements remain an important area for improvement. A significant minority of the children are not sustaining their concentration and interest in the areas of play; a minority also find it difficult to share and take turns. The children are developing a good understanding of mathematical language and concepts, including counting, matching and measuring.

Overall Effectiveness

Derrytrasna Playgroup needs to address important areas for improvement. It will require external support to do so. The follow-up inspection has identified the following areas for improvement:

- develop further the children's personal, social and emotional skills, in particular managing their behaviour and sustaining concentration in play activities;
- develop further the short-term planning to ensure there is progression within the themes and the intended learning is in line with the pre-school curricular guidance; and
- develop further the process of self-evaluation to demonstrate clearly the impact of the actions on the learning, teaching and outcomes for the children.

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

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