

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Derrytrasna Playgroup,
Craigavon, County Armagh

Voluntary playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in April 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DERRYTRASNA PLAYGROUP, CRAIGAVON, BT66 6NR (5BB-0416)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Derrytrasna Playgroup in January 2017, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement¹ in the interest of all learners.

The areas for improvement included the need to develop further:

- the children's personal, social and emotional skills, in particular, managing their behaviour and sustaining concentration in play activities;
- 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
- the process of self-evaluation to demonstrate clearly the impact of the actions on the learning, teaching and outcomes for the children.

The pre-school did not submit a post-inspection action plan.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2017 and a second follow-up inspection in April 2018.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- a member of staff has been formally appointed to the position of deputy leader;
- a new management committee has been established; and
- the routine of the day has been reviewed.

Key Findings

The outcomes for learners remains an important area for improvement. The children's interest in and understanding of the world around us is underdeveloped and a majority of children have a limited interest in books and early mark-making for the time of year. The children are responding very well to the revised routines and are able to transition more smoothly between activities. The consistent approach to managing the children's behaviour has resulted in improved levels of concentration, turn-taking, collaborative play and respect for the resources.

Although aspects of the quality of provision have improved, the quality of learning and teaching remains an important area for improvement. The short-term planning does not identify clearly enough the intended learning for the two distinct age groups within the playgroup. Consequently, areas of the curriculum, in particular the world around us, are under-developed. Some of the resources used by the children are not age and stage appropriate. In the best practice, the staff build on the children's interests and use the observations of the children's learning to inform the short-term planning. There has been an improvement in the quality of the adult interactions with the use of more open-ended questions to develop the children's language skills.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-derrytrasna-playgroup-craigavon-county-armagh-5bb-0416.pdf>

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an important area for improvement. The staff's understanding and effective use of self-evaluation to promote improvement in provision and the outcomes for the children is under-developed. The staff have identified appropriately the need to develop the quality of the provision and planning for outdoor play; however, the current action plan does not provide sufficient detail on how this is to be undertaken and how the impact of any improvement will be measured. There has been insufficient and inconsistent support from the Early Years' Specialists through the Early Years' Organisation in addressing the areas identified within the last inspection report. The recently appointed management committee are supportive of the staff in the playgroup and are committed to continued improvement within the setting.

Overall Effectiveness

Derrytrasna Playgroup needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following areas for improvement:

- to improve the planning and provision, in particular in the world around us and outdoor play, to better meet the needs of all children; and
- to develop staff understanding and use of self-evaluation to effect continued improvement.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

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