

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Dervock Community Playgroup,
Ballymoney, County Antrim

Voluntary Playgroup

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in February 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DERVOCK COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP, BALLYMONEY, BT53 8BB (3BB-0361)

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

In addressing the areas for improvement the playgroup needed to:

- develop further the planning for outdoor play and physical activity; and
- develop the processes of self-evaluation and development planning.

The playgroup's action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI and the development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2016 and a follow-up inspection in February 2017.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- an additional assistant was appointed in September 2016;
- additional Department of Education funding was secured to enable the playgroup to take part in the 'Big Bedtime Read Programme'; and
- the playgroup staff and management committee received support and guidance, which they report to be of good quality, from their early years specialist from the Early years Organisation in addressing the areas for improvement.

The leader has announced her retirement from the playgroup at the end of the present academic year when a new leader will be appointed.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The staff use well the advice and guidance provided by the early years specialist to evaluate the practice, to bring about improvement and to plan for the future development of the playgroup. Current evaluations and future plans are based on clear evidence. The development plan and action plans are helpful in guiding the staff and management committee in their work.

The quality of learning and teaching is now good. All of the staff are confident in their interactions with the children and promote language and learning through the planned activities. The planning outlines a wide range of interesting and varied activities across the year; in particular, very good use is made of the local community to enhance the children's learning. The physical play and outdoor provision provides good opportunities for the children to develop gross motor skills and also their knowledge and appreciation of the World Around Us aspect of the curriculum. There are improved information communications technology resources as well as more natural and authentic items incorporated into the play areas.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-dervock-community-playgroup-ballymoney-county-antrim>

The standards and achievements are very good for the time of year. The children follow instructions, join readily in activities, listen attentively during group sessions and are very well behaved and respectful to others. Much of their work on display is age and stage appropriate and shows close representation of the world as they see and know it.

Overall Effectiveness

Dervock Community Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the children. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement in developing further the process of self evaluation and development planning to continue to enhance further the provision.

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