

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Evergreen Wood Playschool, Greyabbey,
County Down

Private Day Nursery, DE Ref No 4AB-0283

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in May 2024



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Department of Education
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Second follow-up to the inspection of Evergreen Wood Playschool, Greyabbey, BT22 2QH (4AB-0283)

Introduction

Evergreen Wood Playschool (formerly known as Chirpy Chicks Preschool Playgroup) is set in the village hall in Greyabbey. The 13 pre-school children who attend come from the surrounding area and the wider Ards Peninsula.

This follow-up inspection was carried out in May 2024 and provided the playgroup with the opportunity to demonstrate its progress in addressing the areas for improvement identified at the time of the last follow-up inspection. In the interim period, a new leader and playgroup assistant have been appointed.

Views of parents and staff

The ETI issued online confidential questionnaires to parents and staff in advance of the follow-up inspection.

A small number of parents responded to the questionnaire. Their responses were positive and indicated that the staff provide a happy, safe and educational pre-school experience for the children and prepare them well for the transition into Year 1.

Key actions

During this period, the key actions which affect the work of the playgroup include:

- intensive external support provided from an early years specialist (EYS) from the early years organisation in relation to developing the staff understanding of the pre-school curriculum, planning, assessment; and
- all staff and the director have participated in intensive support from the EYS to develop their knowledge of self-evaluation and action planning processes.

Key findings

- Almost all of the children observed are well settled, manage routines confidently and are developing good levels of independence during the session.
- Following staff changes and revised planning, a significant minority of children are now able to sustain play independently at a chosen area and use natural materials appropriately to extend their learning and investigative skills. The planning for play does not align well enough to the children's abilities and interests and needs developed further.

- All of the staff have a very positive and nurturing approach with the children. The staff work effectively together as a team and most of their interactions with the children are effective in promoting the children's language and thinking skills.
- The children's early mark making and representational drawing is progressing; however, for the time of the year, it is underdeveloped.
- The staff have revised their observations of learning to monitor appropriately the children's learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum; this requires further development to ensure all children make progress in their learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- Strategic leadership and the new staffing arrangements have led to improvements in self-evaluation, the quality of the provision and the outcomes of the children; however, further improvement in these three areas is needed.

Area for further action:

- to improve the quality of the children's learning across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum.

Child Protection

At the time of the follow-up inspection, the evidence provided by the playgroup demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance. Minor amendments to the child protection policy and associated flowcharts are needed; ETI will monitor the playgroup's progress in implementing these changes.

Going Forward


The establishment of a strategic leadership team has led to positive improvements in self-evaluation, the quality of the provision and the outcomes of the children in Evergreen Wood Playschool. The inspection has highlighted an area for further action. ETI will monitor the progress of Evergreen Wood Playschool in addressing the area for further action detailed in the report.

There will be a further follow-up inspection.

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