

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Keady Community Playgroup
(Den in the Glen), Keady,
County Armagh

Voluntary

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in March 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KEADY COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP (DEN IN THE GLEN), KEADY, BT60 3UA (5AB-0405)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Keady Community Playgroup in February 2015¹, which concluded that the playgroup needed to address an important area for improvement in the interest of all the learners which was to develop the process of self-evaluation and development planning in order to bring about further improvement to the arts and outdoor play provision.

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

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

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

- The management committee has received training on roles and responsibilities.
- The staff have received support from the early years specialist (EYS), which they evaluate as very good.
- The setting purchased a range of resources to enhance the provision both indoors and outdoors.
- The staff have visited another local playgroup to observe effective practice and the setting has decided not to continue with an afternoon session from April 2017.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The staff are developing well their understanding of self-evaluation. Recent improvement work on enhancing provision in the arts and the outdoor learning environment has improved considerably the children's overall learning experience and impacted positively on their outcomes. While the management committee are supportive of the work of the staff, it will be important that members demonstrate a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities by developing effective monitoring, evaluation and challenge, which is not currently evident in their practice.

The quality of learning and teaching remains good. The programme is broad and balanced and provides good to very good opportunities for the children to develop their learning across the curriculum. The staff have begun to use observations of the children's learning to inform the planning more effectively. The provision for children who have additional needs and also the planning for outdoor play are under-developed and, in going forward, the staff need to develop both further.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/preschool-inspection-keady-community-playgroup-den-in-the-glen-keady-county-armagh.pdf>

The standards and achievements are now very good. The children settle very quickly to their chosen tasks and engage positively with their peers in productive and collaborative play. Particular strengths include the children's high levels of independence, their interest in mark-making, and very good representational drawings from direct observation.

Overall Effectiveness

Keady Community Playgroup demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement through effective self evaluation and action planning for outdoor play provision and for children who have additional needs.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

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