



Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Killough Playgroup
County Down**

December 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILLOUGH PLAYGROUP, KILLOUGH (4BB-0388)

The original inspection, carried out in November 2013, concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.¹

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out two monitoring visits during 2014-15 with a follow-up inspection in December 2015.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following key actions which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- a new leader was appointed and took up post in December 2014; she is completing currently her National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 5 in Childcare;
- the playgroup moved back to their original location, in the grounds of the local primary school, and are now accommodated in a re-furnished mobile classroom; and
- an additional assistant is working in the playgroup in a voluntary capacity.

Key findings

- The staff work collaboratively in planning the programme for the children and a new planning format is in place; there remains the need for the staff to make more effective use of their observations of the children's learning to ensure progression and challenge. The standards and achievements remain good.
- The new accommodation provides a large, bright playroom and an outdoor area which is being developed. There are important areas for improvement in the quality of the adult interactions with the children to ensure they develop more effectively the children's thinking and problem solving skills. The quality of learning and teaching remains an area for improvement.
- There is limited evidence of self-evaluation leading to improvement within the provision. The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an area for improvement.

Overall effectiveness

In the areas inspected, the playgroup has not demonstrated sufficiently the capacity to identify and bring about sustained improvement. The playgroup needs to continue to address important areas for improvement in the interests of the learners. The areas for improvement include the need:

- to use the observations of the children's learning to better inform future planning and ensure progression and challenge throughout the year for all of the children; and

¹ <http://www.eti.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-pre-school-centre-and-nursery-school/inspection-reports-pre-school-2014/preschool-inspection-killough-playgroup-co-down.pdf>

- for the staff and leader, with the support of the management committee and the early years specialist, to develop further their understanding and use of the process of self-evaluation, in order to ensure sustained continuous improvement within the playgroup.

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

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