

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Loughgiel Early Years Centre,
Ballymena, County Antrim

Report of a Follow-up inspection
in October 2016

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LOUGHGIEL EARLY YEARS CENTRE, LOUGHGIEL (4AB-0600)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection in November 2014¹ which concluded that the playgroup needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The most important areas for improvement were to:

- develop further the processes for observing, assessing and recording the children's progress in their learning to inform the planning, including the individual education plans, and best meet the children's specific individual needs; and
- build further the leadership capacity to identify and prioritise the key areas for development and the associated improvement actions.

The ETI carried out two monitoring visits in September 2015 and March 2016, with a follow-up inspection on 25 October 2016. The action plans completed following the inspection were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI during the interim visits.

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

- the management committee extended the allocated time for planning to one hour per day;
- the leader and staff met regularly to discuss and evaluate developments and progress in key areas;
- new observation and planning formats were developed and implemented;
- the pre-school participated in a local area partnership observing practice in, and sharing information with, several other settings;
- the staff team, including the leader, completed additional continuing professional development across a relevant range of areas including leadership and management and special educational needs; and
- the leader attended the independent early years consortium and information events hosted by the ETI to gain further guidance on best practice.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-loughgiel-early-years-centre-loughgiel-co-antrim>

The leader and staff team plan more strategically for the development of the provision to improve further the children's experiences. They are using self-evaluation more effectively and have a better shared understanding of how to identify the key priorities for improvement. As a consequence, the staff monitor more effectively the impact of the improvement work on the quality of the provision and on the children's standards. The continuing professional development undertaken by the staff is having a positive impact on the quality of the provision.

The quality of the provision is now good. The observations are more relevant and factual; the staff use this information more confidently and systematically to inform the future planning and to bring about greater progression in the learning. The improved link between the staff's observations, assessments and planning ensures that the programme is more closely matched to the needs and interests of the individual children. The staff are more reflective in their practice; their regular evaluations of the sessions are focused on improvements in learning for the children.

The children's standards and achievements are good. The children settle quickly to their chosen tasks and spend lengthy periods in sustained and productive play. The staff support and encourage the children to be independent and creative; the children respond positively to the varied learning experiences provided and are making good progress in all areas of their learning and development.

Overall effectiveness

Loughgiel Early Years demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the playgroup sustains the improvements in leadership and management and the quality of the provision made to date.

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