

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Crawfordsburn Playgroup,
Bangor, County Down

Voluntary pre-school playgroup

Report of an Inspection in
March 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



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1. Context

Crawfordsburn Playgroup is located on the Belfast Road, on the outskirts of Bangor, County Down. Since the last inspection, the preschool centre has undergone significant refurbishment indoors. The same staff has been in place since 2005 and now all three staff members are employed as joint Leaders.

Number of children:	Class 1
Attending part-time	25
Funded by Department of Education	9
With statement of special educational needs	#
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	#
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	#

Average percentage attendance for the previous year.	86%
Number of days open in previous school year	185

Source: data provided by the setting.

** The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

fewer than 5

2. Views of parents and staff

Two-thirds of the parents and all of the staff responded to the confidential questionnaire. All of the responses were very positive and the additional written comments were highly complementary about all aspects of the life and work of the pre-school. In particular, the parents appreciate the commitment of the staff to the care and welfare of all the children, the provision for the children requiring support with aspects of their learning, the friendly atmosphere and the wide range of interesting and stimulating experiences provided for the children.

3. Focus of the inspection

In order to promote improvement in the interest of all learners, the inspection linked internal and external approaches to evaluate the:

- outcomes for the children;
- quality of provision for learning; and
- leadership and management.

4. Overall findings of the inspection

Overall effectiveness	High level of capacity for sustained improvement
Outcomes for learners	Outstanding
Provision for learning	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding

5. Outcomes for learners

- The children are very well-settled, engage purposefully in their learning and are familiar with the daily routines of the playgroup. They are confident and highly independent in choosing activities, labelling and storing their own work, attending to their own needs and during the snack routine. The behaviour of the children is exemplary.
- The children approach the staff with ease and are confident and very articulate when talking about their work and play. They are attaining very high standards across the six areas of the preschool curriculum and have developed very positive attitudes and dispositions for learning. The children display a good interest in early mark-making; some of their representational work is detailed and of a high standard.
- Nearly all of the children take part appropriately during the group story and join in songs and rhymes with enthusiasm. They show respect for their peers, the staff and their environment.
- The children who require support with aspects of their learning are fully integrated into the group and are making good progress.

6. Quality of provision

- The staff present an attractive learning environment; very good use is made of all the available space to provide interesting learning experiences for the children across all areas of the curriculum. The children have access to a wide range of additional resources which they use appropriately to extend their play and concentration.
- The staff collaborate effectively and have a shared understanding of the pre-school curriculum. They know the children very well and use the information gained through their interactions with, and observations of, the children to inform future learning and to meet their individual needs.
- The consistently high quality of the interactions between the staff and the children to promote learning and language is a key strength of the provision. The staff are sensitive, nurturing and affirming in their approach; they take time to listen, support, and build on the children's own ideas. They frequently extend the children's thinking, model the use of mathematical language, read books throughout the session and encourage close observation and investigation.
- The children who have additional learning needs are identified early and are very well supported through the skilful use of appropriate strategies. The close links developed between the parents, the pre-school and other agencies promote an effective, holistic approach to the support.
- Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the pre-school's approach to the care and welfare of the children impacts positively on all aspects of the learning, teaching and outcomes. The nurturing ethos and excellent working relationships at all levels foster a positive climate for young children to learn and develop.

7. Leadership and management

- The new management structure is working very effectively; the outstanding leadership and management of the pre-school promotes excellent teamwork and a shared vision for providing high quality care and education and the ongoing development of the centre's work. The management group support the staff very well in their work.
- Through the staff's own reflective approach to development planning and self-evaluation of all aspects of their work, they have continued to improve the provision in the best interest of the children. The staff have valued the support provided by the early years specialist from the Early Years Organisation but are reviewing the role. The staff have the necessary qualifications and have demonstrated their capacity to bring about ongoing improvements in their work, as a result, they are now reviewing the need for external support.
- The playgroup has established excellent links with parents, relevant agencies and the main feeder primary schools for the benefit of the children. Information about the children's progress and development is gathered regularly and is shared at key times throughout the year with the parents. Appropriate information is passed to the feeder primary schools to aid transition.

8. Safeguarding

- Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the relevant Departments.

9. Overall effectiveness

Crawfordsburn Playgroup has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The ETI will monitor how the playgroup sustains improvement.

Inspection methodology and evidence base

The ETI's Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework is available on the ETI website <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/inspection-and-self-evaluation-framework-isef-effective-practice-and-self-evaluation>.

Inspectors observed learning and teaching through play, the children's achievements, progression and standards, scrutinised relevant documentation, and held formal and informal discussions with staff with specific responsibilities.

The arrangements for this inspection included:

- a meeting with those involved with leadership and management, including the management group; and
- the opportunity for the parents and staff to complete a confidential questionnaire.

Reporting terms used by the Education and Training Inspectorate

Quantitative terms

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75% - 90%
A majority	-	50% - 74%
A significant minority	-	30% - 49%
A minority	-	10% - 29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

Performance levels

The ETI use the following performance levels when reporting on outcomes for learners, quality of provision and leadership and management:

Outstanding
Very good
Good
Important area(s) for improvement
Requires significant improvement
Requires urgent improvement

Overall effectiveness

The ETI use one of the following inspection outcomes when evaluating the overall effectiveness of the school:

The school has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.
The school demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.
The school needs to address (an) important area(s) for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the area(s) for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.
The school needs to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners. It requires external support to do so. The ETI will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.

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