

Inspection of Pre-school Education Centres

*This leaflet outlines for parents the nature of the
inspection process and the ways in which they can be involved.*

Information for Parents, Carers and Guardians

ETI: Promoting Improvement in the Interest of all Learners



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



WHY IS YOUR PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE BEING INSPECTED?

Your centre has been allocated Government funding to provide pre-school education. All new providers are inspected as quickly as possible. Thereafter, inspections are carried out approximately every five years. In some circumstances, inspections may take place more frequently.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTIONS?

To promote the highest possible standards of education. To tell all those who need to know, such as the parents, the Department of Education (DE) and the Government, about the quality of the education being provided and about what needs to be changed if improvements are required.

WHO CARRIES OUT THE INSPECTION?

Inspectors from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) who have qualifications and experience in the education of young children. On most inspections, the ETI will be accompanied by an Associate Assessor.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN INSPECTION?

The inspectors will be evaluating the quality of education being provided for the children in their pre-school year and will assess how well:

- the children have settled and are learning;
- the children's individual needs are being met;
- the working relationships between staff and children are helping to promote learning;
- the centre ensures the care, welfare and protection of the children;
- the play opportunities and other activities promote the children's learning and all round development;
- the programme of activities is planned, organised and evaluated;
- the children's progress is monitored and assessed;
- the links and partnerships with external services are contributing to the centre's work;
- the parents are kept informed of their children's progress; and
- the centre is led, managed and resourced.

The inspectors will talk to the children about their play and may join with them in their activities. They will also talk to the staff, parents and any other adults in the centre about the provision being made.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

You can give your views on how well the pre-school centre is doing by:

- completing and returning the online parents' questionnaire;
- contacting the reporting inspector through a telephone call or email to the Inspection Services Team (telephone number and address are indicated below);
- writing to the Principal/Leader of the pre-school centre, or the proprietor if the centre is a private day nursery; and
- writing to the Chairperson of the Management Committee/Board of Governors.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INSPECTION?

The report will be available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk

If the report finds that there are areas for improvement, the staff and the Management Committee/Proprietor/Board of Governors will be asked to prepare an action plan. A follow-up inspection will take place within 18 to 24 months.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the inspection or the report, or to receive any further information about the inspection process you should write to The Chief Inspector at the address below.

The Chief Inspector

The Reporting Inspector and Inspection Services Team may be contacted at:

Department of Education
Rathgael House
Rathgill
43 Balloo Road
BANGOR, Co Down
BT19 7PR

Telephone: 028 9127 9726

Email: eti@education-ni.gov.uk