



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*

**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 Baseline Inspection Visit**

**of**

**Scoil an Droichid Nursery Unit  
Belfast**

**May 2013**

## **INSPECTION VISIT TO SCOIL AN DROICHID NURSERY UNIT**

In 2008, the BELB established a nursery unit providing a full-time class in Scoil an Droichid for children in their pre-school year.

An inspection visit to the nursery unit class was carried out on 21 May 2013. This inspection evaluation is based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from the scrutiny of a range of relevant documentation provided by the school.

### **Summary of main findings**

During the visit, the following strengths of the nursery unit class were observed:

- the very positive, inclusive ethos and the excellent working relationships at all levels;
- the very well-settled children who engage in sustained purposeful play, work collaboratively and display very good levels of independence;
- the consistent high quality of the staff's interactions with the children; in particular, the staff modelled good play, developed the children's language and thinking skills through open-ended discussions and demonstrated an inclusive approach to involving the children in play;
- the well-planned programme which provides a broad and balanced range of learning experiences ,in particular the provision for physical development and investigating the world around us;
- the strong immersion environment which supports very effectively the children's acquisition of the Irish language; and
- the very good links with parents, the Gaelscoil and the local community.

In order to improve further the educational and pastoral provision, the staff should now:

- develop a more strategic approach to observing, recording and assessing the children's learning in order to provide clear evidence of their progress.

### **Conclusion**

In the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is good; the nursery unit has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement in the provision for learning which the nursery unit has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The inspectorate will monitor the nursery unit's progress on the area for improvement.

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