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*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 Follow-up Inspection

of

**Naíscoil na Daróige
Derry**

February 2014

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil NA DARÓIGE, DERRY, BT48 0PD (2BB-0511)

The inspection in Naíscoil na Daróige in May 2012, evaluated the provision overall as inadequate. The inspection report highlighted strengths including:

- the development of the children's early writing and mark-making skills;
- the instances of sustained interactions of the staff with the children; and
- the recent improvements in the presentation and layout of the playroom brought about by the support of the EYS.

It also identified the need for the naíscoil to:

- review all of its policies and procedures to ensure that they are relevant to, and reflect, the work of the naíscoil;
- develop further the planning and assessment methods in order to meet the children's individual needs and to raise their standards and achievements across all of the areas of learning;
- ensure that the behaviour management strategies are agreed and implemented consistently by all of the staff; and
- ensure the safeguarding arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

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

- a new leader and naíscoil assistant were appointed in September 2012;
- all policies and procedures have been reviewed to reflect the work of the naíscoil;
- an agreed policy for behaviour management has been developed and implemented consistently by all staff;
- a rigorous method of observing, assessing and planning for progression in the children's learning has been developed;
- the safeguarding arrangements have been reviewed and aligned with DE guidance and are now comprehensive;
- the management committee has reviewed the admissions policy to ensure that places in the setting are appropriately allocated to pre-school children;
- the management and staff have reviewed resourcing and provided additional materials and equipment to support the children's learning and play; and
- the naíscoil staff have worked more consistently with the early years specialist from Altram.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in February and November 2013 and a follow-up inspection on 3 February 2014.

The action plan received by the Department of Education (DE) following the inspection was of a good quality.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection:

- the very good leadership shown by the leader who is an effective role-model for the staff;
- the staff work well as a team, they are clear about their roles and support each other and consistently interact well with the children during the session;
- the quality of the learning experiences has improved across all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- the daily timetable is managed well with more effective strategies in place to ensure that transitions are smooth, and that snack and home time routines are well managed;
- there is very good promotion of language and communication and early mathematical ideas, and the children make more frequent use of books and writing materials during the session;
- the layout and appearance of the playroom has been improved to support the children's self-management, independence and more settled use of the quiet room;
- there are more systematic and detailed methods in place to track children's progress, set targets and plan for the individual needs of children;
- there is more effective early identification and targeted support for children with special educational needs; and
- all of the children respond well to visual cues and clear, direct instructions, they listen more attentively, and are well motivated to make good choices and engage in sustained concentrated play.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this naíscoil is now good; the naíscoil 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 naíscoil has demonstrated the capacity to address. The area for improvement is:

- to develop further the quality of the staff's interactions with the children in order to extend the children's learning.

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

Accommodation

- The naíscóil staff have only limited access to the playroom for planning and preparation because it is used immediately at the end of the session as the dining facility for the adjacent Gaelscoil. Consideration should be given to improving the naíscóil's accommodation.

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