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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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**Department of Education
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíonra Ghleann Darach
Crumlin**

February 2008

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN NAÍONRA GHLEANN DARACH, CRUMLIN, CO ANTRIM, BT29 4LA (3AB-0523)

The inspection in November 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the centre and the extended periods of concentrated and productive play, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the staff's competence in the use of the Irish language;
- the planning and assessment methods; and
- the planning and resources for outdoor and physical play.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the pre-school centre has taken place:

- a new leader and a new assistant were appointed and took up post in September 2007;
- new mobile accommodation has been acquired;
- the outdoor play area has been developed;
- additional resources for outdoor and physical play have been acquired;
- one member of staff has completed the National Vocational Qualification Level 3 training; and
- the staff have accessed a number of training courses including the "Topstart" programme which focuses on children's physical development.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an inspection visit to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 13 February 2008.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the management group:

- the new mobile accommodation provides a more attractive learning environment for the children;
- the quality of the interaction, through the medium of Irish, between the staff and the children is now of a very high standard;
- the children's responses to the staff indicate a good understanding of spoken Irish;
- the written planning is more comprehensive and now outlines clearly the learning potential within the themes and the play activities;

- the children now experience regular opportunities for energetic physical play; and
- the staff have received valuable support and guidance from the centre's early years specialist.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- the staff need to develop further their assessment methods and link their observations of the children's needs and interests more effectively to the written planning; and
- the staff need to improve their planning for outdoor play, in order to promote learning across all the areas of the pre-school curriculum.

Since the inspection, the pre-school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed, to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but some minor areas still require improvement. The organisation is developing a rigorous process of self-evaluation which leads to improvement.

The pre-school centre's progress in the minor areas for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

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