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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil Charn Tóchair
Maghera**

November 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil CHARN TÓCHAIR, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5NH (3AB-0114)

The inspection in May 2007 highlighted strengths in the dedication and commitment of the staff and the quality of their spoken Irish, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the management of the children's behaviour;
- the organisation of the daily session;
- the planning for physical play;
- the formal nature of some of the activities; and
- the quality of the resources.

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

- the staff and the management group have received regular, relevant and very focused advice and guidance from the centre's early years specialist (EYS);
- the staff have created more spacious play accommodation within the existing building, including a room for physical play;
- the staff have accessed training in behaviour management and in aspects of curriculum development, including play with natural materials and physical play and movement; and
- additional resources for have been acquired for physical and outdoor play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 21 November 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visits in November 2007 and September 2008.

Detailed action plans were drafted in light of the inspection findings and the centre has carried out a comprehensive audit of provision which has identified appropriate priorities for further improvement. The staff and management group are in the process of drafting a development plan for the next planning period 2008-2011.

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

- The staff have reviewed and updated the centre's policy for behaviour management. Appropriate strategies have been agreed and shared with the parents and are being implemented consistently by all the staff.

- The organisation of the daily session has been reviewed and improved. The children now experience lengthy periods of uninterrupted play and transitions from free play to adult-led activities are smoother. The daily routines are now well managed and unobtrusive. The staff and the EYS have carried out a comprehensive review of the provision for physical play. The children now have access to a separate well-resourced space for physical play indoors. The physical play programme is carefully planned and well-managed.
- The interactions of the staff with the children are more effective in promoting settled, purposeful and concentrated play. The short-term planning clearly identifies the intending learning within the activities and this is developed in appropriately informal and natural ways. Group situations are managed skilfully.
- The new playroom is very attractively set up and the children now have access to a wider range of resources and a more enriched programme of activities.

Since the inspection, the centre has evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed to the improvement made, and helped the pre-school centre identify appropriately its priorities for future development.

Excellent progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this centre is now very good. The centre is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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