

eti

*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 Mhachaire Rátha
Maghera**

April 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN NAÍScoil MHACHAIRE RÁTHA, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5AP (3AB-0125)

The inspection in February 2005 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos and the efforts made by the staff to create an interesting learning environment and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the planning and assessment methods;
- to ensure that the staff's interaction with the children is consistently of a high standard;
- to develop further the staff's competence and confidence in the use of the Irish language to meet fully the needs of the children; and
- to improve the quality and range of resources.

In the interval since the inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the pre-school centre have been implemented.

- A new leader was appointed in September 2006 for one year.
- An new assistant was appointed in September 2006.
- The centre has moved to new premises. The playroom has been redecorated and the layout of the equipment within the play areas is attractive and stimulating.
- New furniture, equipment and resources have been purchased in all areas of play.
- The staff are attending recognised courses to develop their competence in the use of Irish language and have attended relevant training on child protection and healthy eating.
- The staff's use of the document 'Together Towards Improvement', to identify two appropriate areas for development, has provided a good starting point for self-evaluation.

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 30 April 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in February 2007.

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

- The centre is bright, welcoming and stimulating for the children and the parents, the layout of the equipment, the organisation of the session, and the use of the space are more effective in promoting the children's learning.

- The staff are more confident and are developing more skill in planning and implementing a broad and balanced pre-school curriculum which progresses through the year.
- The staff demonstrate more understanding and skill in promoting the children's language and learning.
- The staff are more skilful in recording and evaluating the children's progress and are beginning to use this information more effectively to meet the children's differing needs.
- The early years specialist has provided valuable advice and support for the staff.
- The quality of the interaction through the medium of Irish between the staff and the children is now of a higher standard and is effective in promoting the children's development in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The children generally, have a good understanding of the Irish language; they are beginning to use the language in a natural way.
- The staff provide effective support for those children who are identified with special educational needs.
- The leader is an excellent role-model; an emerging sense of team-spirit is developing following a period of staff changes.

The pre-school centre has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the staff's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of their action in response to the findings of the inspection.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.