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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Naíscoil Mhaol Íosa
Ballymagroarty, Derry

April 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN NAÍScoil MHAOL ÍOSA BALLYMAGROARTY, DERRY, BT48 0ND (2AB 0511)

The inspection in March 2005 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos and in the relationships with the parents, and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the organisation of the daily timetable, to ensure that all time is used effectively to promote learning through purposeful play;
- the written planning, to ensure that the educational programme progresses appropriately over the year and meets the children's differing needs;
- the methods for monitoring and recording the children's progress across all areas of the pre-school curriculum; and
- the staff's confidence and expertise in their interactions with these young learners, in order to promote increasingly effectively the children's language development and learning in all areas of 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 was appointed and took up post in October 2005.
- A new assistant was appointed and took up post in February 2006.
- A third member of staff was appointed and took up post in September 2006.
- An outdoor play area has been developed and additional resources have been acquired.

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 19 April 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in September 2006.

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

- The organisation of the daily programme has been improved. The children now experience appropriate periods of uninterrupted play, both indoors and outside. The routines and transitions are now managed more effectively.
- The short-term planning has been reviewed and now identifies some of the learning potential within the activities. The staff evaluate the programme on a weekly basis and have begun to adapt their plans to meet the needs of specific children and the interests of the group.

- The staff operate a key-worker system and have now developed a profile of each child's progress across all six areas of the pre-school curriculum. They also record the children's progress in their use of Irish.
- During the follow-up inspection visit, there were many examples of effective interaction when the staff supported the children's ideas and extended their language and learning. The staff demonstrate confidence and competence in their use of Irish to promote learning. The children's responses indicate a good understanding of spoken Irish.

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.

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