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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



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**Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil na gCrann
Omagh**

March 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil NA GCRANN, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 0GZ (2AB-0529)

The inspection in Naíscoil na gCrann highlighted strengths in the enthusiastic leader, the caring and supportive relationships between the staff and the children, the satisfactory to good opportunities to learn in most areas of the pre-school programme and the children's development of an understanding of the Irish language; it identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the methods of planning and assessment in order to highlight more clearly the learning to be promoted in all areas of play, and ensure that the children's progress is linked effectively to the planning;
- to review the procedures for identifying, monitoring, reporting and supporting those children identified with special educational needs; and
- to add more resources to ensure progression, breadth and challenge in the play programme.

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

- The significant staff changes, with two new members of staff recently appointed.
- The substantial funding provided to equip a very good outdoor play area.
- The additional resources supplied for the playroom, which enhance the all-round provision for play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 6 March 2008.

The pre-school centre does not have a development plan and urgently needs to devise one in order to manage effectively change and improvement.

Work has begun to develop planning and assessment procedures, links have been established recently with outside agencies to support individual children and substantial funding has been invested in good quality resources particularly in the outdoor area. Nevertheless, the evidence from the follow-up inspection process indicates that insufficient progress has been made in addressing most of the areas identified for action in the original inspection. The following key areas have been inadequately addressed:

- to develop further the methods of planning and assessment in order to highlight more clearly the learning to be promoted in all areas of play and ensure that the children's progress is linked effectively to planning; and
- to review the procedures for identifying, monitoring, reporting and supporting those children identified as having special educational needs.

Since the inspection, the pre-school has not evaluated effectively the progress made in the areas for improvement. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes used for self-evaluation are developed more fully to focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Insufficient progress has been made in important areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The staff, along with the early years specialist, need to address urgently the important areas for improvement identified in the original inspection if the centre is to meet effectively the needs of all the children. The leader of the centre will need improved external support if the shortcomings identified are to be adequately addressed.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement. A further follow-up inspection will be carried out.

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