



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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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 na Móna
Belfast**

May 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil NA MONA, BELFAST, BT11 8EJ (1AB-0015)

The inspection in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the Naíscoil and the quality of the staff's interaction with the children, and also the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the development of the planning and the assessment methods to meet the children's individual needs.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the Naíscoil has taken place:

- a new leader was appointed and took up post in September 2006;
- a new early years specialist was appointed;
- the staff have attended appropriate training provided by a range of agencies;
- some additional resources have been purchased for the provision of outdoor play;
- a welcome booklet and questionnaires have been compiled for the parents;
- the staff have introduced a new system for recording information on the children's progress, including the development of a key worker system;
- the policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated;
- the staff have developed closer links with the Gaelscoil to which most of the children will transfer; and
- some new fencing and a gate have been erected.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 19 May 2008 and also takes account of the visit in February 2008.

The Naíscoil does not have a development plan. There are action plans to guide the specific area under focus.

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

- the staff have developed their communication with the parents through the compilation of a useful welcome booklet, the use of questionnaires to seek parental views and an additional meeting with the parents to discuss their children's progress;
- the introduction of Adventure Ted (Teidí eachtra) and a lending library promote further the involvement of the parents in their children's learning and development;
- the provision for outdoor play has been improved; the children have access to a better choice of activities, resources and opportunities for learning across the pre-school curriculum; as a result there are higher levels of productive and purposeful play outdoors;
- the staff are using the assessment methods more systematically to record the children's progress and they identify some specific areas of support to meet individual needs;

- the new leader brings skill and enthusiasm to her work, she is a good role-model in her own work with the children and demonstrates a clear vision for continuous improvement within the Naíscoil; and
- the leader is developing useful links with the local Childcare Forum and the Upper Springfield SureStart in order to promote a more joined-up overview of early years provision within the area.

The area which needs further improvement is as follows:

- the staff should continue to develop the link between the children’s assessments and planning for individual needs to identify more specific actions in the weekly planning when appropriate.

Since the inspection, the Naíscoil has evaluated the progress made in a number of areas for improvement. The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed to the improvements made, and helped the Naíscoil identify appropriately its priorities for future development. There is clear evidence of improvement in the areas under focus.

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 Naíscoil is developing an effective process of self-evaluation which leads to improvement.

The Naíscoil’s progress in the minor areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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