

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil na Speiríní
Draperstown, County Derry**

April 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil NA SPEIRÍNÍ, DRAPERSTOWN (3AB-0481)

The original inspection carried out in December 2014 concluded that the quality of education provided in the náiscoil was inadequate; the areas for improvement outweighed the strengths in the provision.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- review urgently the organisation of the day to meet more effectively the needs of all the children and to provide more opportunities for the children to make independent choices and to engage in sustained and purposeful free play; and,
- develop the planning, observation and assessment processes in order to best meet the needs of individual children and to ensure progression in learning for all of the children.

The Education and Training inspectorate (ETI) carried out an interim follow-up visit during 2015-16 with a follow-up inspection in April 2016. The post-inspection plans were of a good quality.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following key actions which affect the work of the náiscoil have taken place:

- a new leader was appointed in September 2015;
- the staff have attended a range of relevant training opportunities, including the Early Years' Special Educational Needs Capacity Building Programme, which was attended by the new leader;
- additional resources have been purchased and appropriate changes have been made to the learning environment making it more attractive, stimulating and child centred;
- the organisation of the day has been reviewed and amended to provide more opportunities for the children to make independent choices and to engage in sustained and purposeful free play;
- an effective practice of strategic development planning and self-evaluation has been established;
- the cycle of planning, observation and assessment has been reviewed and revised; and
- the staff have received regular and effective support from their early years specialist from Altram.

Key Findings

- The methods for planning, observations and assessments have been revised and improved significantly. The planned curricular programme and the enhanced learning environment provide an appropriately challenging and stimulating curriculum for the children. Planning is now guided by the individual areas of learning within the pre-school curriculum and evaluations are supported effectively by appropriately annotated photographic evidence. The staff have identified the need to develop further the provision for outdoor play.

- The organisation of the day has been revised and effectively meets the needs of all the children. The children now have good opportunities to make independent choices and to engage in sustained and purposeful free play.
- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good.

Overall effectiveness

Naíscoil na Speiríní has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the naíscoil sustains improvement.

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