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*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 Uachtar Tíre
Castlewellan**

May 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil Uachtar Tíre, CASTLEWELLAN, CO DOWN, BT31 9ED (4AB-0163)

The inspection in Naíscoil Uachtar Tíre in March 2005 highlighted strengths in the centre's ethos, the quality of the relationships, the pre-school programme and the development of the children's Irish language and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning of the educational programme;
- the methods for monitoring and recording the children's progress; and
- the development of an appropriate policy and strategies to support children identified as having special educational needs.

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

- The centre has employed the services of a new early years specialist and an additional assistant.
- The staff have attended a number of relevant courses.
- Some new resources have been purchased to extend the learning opportunities for the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (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 the 14 May 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visits in May 2006.

The pre-school centre has made satisfactory progress in the areas for development and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- The staff now plan together as a team which is ensuring that all of the staff have a better understanding of the learning to be promoted through the various activities.
- The staff have explored a range of planning formats; the new planning format identifies more clearly the learning potential of the activities and is supporting the staff in their day-to-day work with the children.
- The staff have introduced a key-worker system and have developed an appropriate system of monitoring and recording the children's progress. They record some relevant observations of the children's responses to the play activities and are making good efforts to plan for the needs of individual children.
- Recently, the staff have drawn up an appropriate policy to support children identified as having special educational needs.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- The management group needs to ensure that the staff have opportunities to attend appropriate training for special educational needs.
- The early years specialist needs to support the staff in the further development of the assessment methods ensuring that records are kept up-to-date to ensure that the staff can report accurately on the children's progress.
- The centre needs to develop further the special needs policy to outline clearly strategies to be used to support children identified as having special educational needs.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the pre-school centre to ensure that the improvements which are needed are implemented.

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