



Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of an Inspection

**Naíscoil an Lonnain
Belfast**

Inspected: March 2008

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Naíscoil an Lonnain
Address:	61 Falls Road BELFAST BT12 4PD
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	4 March 2008
Date of previous inspection:	3 March 2003

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	13	-
• funded by Department of Education	13	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	13	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	0	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	76%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	2	0
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	2	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

Number of: **
Students
Trainees

** Total placements since September of current year

3. Details of Sessions

Duration of morning session	Duration of afternoon session	Number of days open in previous year
3¾ hours	-	179

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	13
Percentage returned:	69.2%
Number of written comments:	4

NAÍSCOIL AN LONNAIN, BELFAST, BT12 4PD (1BB-0476)

1. Naíscoil an Lonnain is an Irish-Medium pre-school under voluntary management. Since the previous inspection, the Naíscoil has changed premises and is now accommodated in the former Dunlewey Centre. There is a small secure outdoor area; the toilets, which are shared with the primary school, are located out of the playroom. There has also been a complete change of staff, including the early years specialist (EYS). The number of pre-school children has increased from eight to 13. The majority of the children come from the immediate area.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the Naíscoil through the inspection questionnaires. The responses indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the provision.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is very good. The Naíscoil has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the staff implement these policies and procedures effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The Naíscoil programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

5. The main strengths within the Naíscoil's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.

- There is a positive ethos, based on the very good relationships which foster the children's confidence and self-esteem. The children are very well behaved and turn readily to the staff to join with them in their play.
- The staff prepare an attractive and stimulating learning environment. A good range of resources are presented within distinct areas for play; interest areas and displays of the children's own art work enhance the playroom.
- There are good opportunities for learning in almost all areas of the pre-school curriculum. During the inspection there were many examples of concentrated and productive play. Particular strengths of the centre include the promotion of oral language and early mathematical ideas. The children display an interest in books and early marking. There are many examples of co-operative and imaginative play.
- The staff are all supportive to the children and sensitive to their needs. They all demonstrate skill in building effectively on the children's own ideas and extending their thinking and language.
- The staff are competent in their use of the Irish language to promote all areas of the pre-school curriculum; the children demonstrate very good levels of understanding and many respond with appropriate words and phrases.
- The staff are hard-working and enthusiastic in their work with the children.

6. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention.

- The staff should continue to develop their planning and assessment methods.
- The daily routines should be reviewed and amended to ensure all of the time is used effectively for learning.

7. The staff are reflective in their practice and have developed useful methods to evaluate parental satisfaction with aspects of their work. The lack of sufficient EYS support in recent years has had a negative impact on systematic developmental work and development planning. The staff should now work closely with the newly appointed EYS to bring about continuous improvement.

8. The Naíscoil has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the Naíscoil has the capacity to address.

The Naíscoil's progress on the areas for improvement will be followed-up by monitoring visits, conducted by the District Inspector.

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