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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 an Inspection

Naíscoil Charn Tóchair Maghera

Inspected: May 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Naíscoil Charn Tóchair
Address:	131 Tirkane Road MAGHERA Co Londonderry BT46 5NH
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	15 May 2007
Date of previous inspection:	21 May 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	17	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	11	-
• funded by Department of Education	9	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	8	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	0	-
• with English as an additional language	2	-
• 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	95%	-

* Special Educational Needs

** 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	1	0

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainees	0
Volunteers	1

*** 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
2½ hours	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	17
Percentage returned:	59%
Number of written comments:	7

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil CHARN TÓCHAIR MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5NH (3AB-0114)

1. The centre is accommodated in a classroom in the voluntary school building. It is situated near to St Brigid's Primary School and the Bunscoil Naomh Bríd.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses indicated a high level of satisfaction with the overall provision of the centre. The written comments praised the work of the staff.

3. The centre 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 centre demonstrates a commitment to promoting healthy eating habits. There are some opportunities for the children to participate in a range of physical activities.

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

- The staff work hard to make imaginative use of all the equipment and all the available space.
- During the inspection, there were some instances observed when the children were engaged productively in purposeful play.
- There are satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The communication with the parents is adequate and provides some opportunities for them to participate in the education of their children.
- The level of interaction between the staff and the children in Irish is very good. During the inspection there were some good instances when the staff spent sustained periods interacting with the groups of children and with individuals, promoting the children's language and learning and participating appropriately in the play.
- The level of Irish of the children is good. The children's responses indicate a good understanding of spoken Irish.
- Snack time is organised informally and provides good opportunities for the children to develop independence, and to acquire social skills.
- The leader and staff are hard-working and dedicated and are committed to the further development of the provision.

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

- The staff need to develop and implement more effective strategies to deal with inappropriate behaviour.
- There is a need to review the organisation of the day in order to ensure that all the time is used effectively for learning, and in particular develop the planning, organisation and management of physical play sessions.
- The staff need to adopt more appropriately informal methods of exploiting the learning potential of all the activities in order to meet more effectively the needs of all of the children.
- The centre needs to develop further the resources in most areas of play in order to provide greater challenge and progression.

7. The staff have started to develop some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage, the staff have begun to reflect on how they might observe the practice in the playroom more closely. The staff should now work together with the early years specialist and the management committee to review and develop further their action plans in light of the inspection findings.

8. The pre-school centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few important areas for improvement which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the pre-school centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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