

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Naíscóil Eoghain, Cookstown

Report of an Inspection  
in October 2012

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In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school setting:</b>	Naíscóil Eoghain
<b>Address:</b>	32 Chapel Street COOKSTOWN Co Tyrone BT80 8QD
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	1 October 2012
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
attending the pre-school setting	19	-
in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	19	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2		-
with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs		-
with English as an additional language	2	-
who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
<b>Attendance:</b>		
attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	66.54%	-

\* Special Educational Needs = fewer than five

\*\* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

## 2. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
Staff, including leader	3	0
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification	1	0
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	1	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	3	0

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	1
Trainees	0

\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

## 3. Details of Sessions

<b>Duration of morning session</b>	<b>Duration of afternoon session</b>	<b>Number of days open in previous year</b>
2¾ hours	-	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	19
Percentage returned	47.3%
Number of written comments:	1

## 1. Introduction

Naíscoil Eoghain opened in September 2008; it is situated in the centre of Cookstown, Co Tyrone. Two new leaders were appointed and took up their posts in September 2012.

## 2. Inspection methods and evidence base

The inspection evaluations are based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from a range of documentation provided by the naíscoil.

The views of the parents, staff, and management group were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Nineteen questionnaires were issued to the parents and 9 were returned with one written comment. All of the staff and 4 members of the management group also returned the questionnaires with written comments. Almost all of the returns from the questionnaires indicated high levels of satisfaction with nearly all aspects of the work of the naíscoil. The reporting inspector discussed any issues raised through the questionnaires with the leaders and the members of the management group who attended the oral report back.

## 3. Overall finding of the inspection

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this naíscoil is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards and learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

### Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements Quality of Provision Leadership and management	Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory
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## KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

### 4. Children's Achievements

**The quality of the children's achievements is satisfactory.**

- The children are generally well-settled, for the time of year, and are developing positive attitudes to their learning.
- During the inspection, the majority of the children engaged in purposeful play; they co-operated well with one another and with the adults; some of the children are developing firm friendships.
- A small number of the children are not yet ready to join in whole group situations; the staff need to address this by offering these children greater choice of activities and creating smaller group story sessions.

## **5. Provision for Learning**

**The quality of the provision for learning is satisfactory.**

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the naíscoil is very good. The staff are very caring and engage with the children in their play activities. The positive relationships at all levels foster an inclusive and supportive family ethos throughout the naíscoil. The children are at ease with the staff and turn to them readily for help and support.
- Too often, however, the staff miss opportunities to develop the children's language and learning. The staff now need to develop a greater understanding of the learning potential of each of the activities and build more effectively on the children's own ideas and interests.
- Since taking up their posts, the new staff have worked hard to create a bright, clean and stimulating learning environment for the children. The children's work is valued and presented around the playroom in an attractive manner.
- As a newly established team, the staff are at a very early stage of developing their planning. A good start has been made to developing a systematic approach to observing the children at play and recording their responses. The staff will require additional support from the setting's early years specialist to further develop their understanding and approaches to planning and assessment in order to meet the differing needs of the children.
- The children are provided with a healthy snack and regular physical activity. More needs to be done to plan and provide a wider range of energetic and physical activities in a secure outdoor environment.
- The quality of the staff's spoken Irish during the inspection was variable. An improvement in the Irish language skills of the staff is therefore crucial in order to enable the staff to exploit more effectively the learning opportunities arising from the play activities.
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection the naíscoil has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

## **6. Leadership and Management**

**The quality of leadership and management is satisfactory**

- All of the staff are provided with extra time, by the management group, to develop a team approach to planning the programme and assessing the children's needs. The staff have appropriately begun to evaluate the quality of their planning; they need to continue to develop their understanding of the purpose of self-evaluation leading to improvement.
- Currently, the naíscoil staff have the support of a temporary early years specialist (EYS) from ALTRAM. To date, their EYS has provided very good focussed advice to the group and is supporting them with the ongoing improvement of their provision within the naíscoil.

## CONCLUSION

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards and learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- continue to develop the methods of planning and assessment to provide a broad and balanced programme of activities that progress throughout the year and meet the children's differing needs;
- improve the provision for outdoor energetic and physical play;
- ensure that the staff have a full understanding of the learning potential of all activities; and
- provide the staff with appropriate support in their development of appropriate Irish vocabulary so that they are able to interact appropriately with the children and develop their language and learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement over a 12-24 month period.



**ACCOMMODATION**

The staff should review the management of the outdoor space for physical activities to make better use of all time and space for learning.

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