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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 na Banna**  
**Portadown**

**Inspected: May 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of pre-school centre:</b> | Naíscoil na Banna  |
| <b>Address:</b>                   | 250A Garvaghy Road<br>PORTADOWN<br>Co Armagh<br>BT62 1EB |
| <b>Management Type:</b>           | Voluntary  |

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Date of inspection:</b>          | 17 May 2007 |
| <b>Date of previous inspection:</b> | 23 May 2001 |

### 1. Details of Children

| <b>Total number of children:</b>   | <b>am<br/>session</b> | <b>pm<br/>session</b> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • attending the pre-school centre  | 8                     | -                     |
| • in their immediate pre-school year   | 7                     | -                     |
| • funded by Department of Education  | 7                     | -                     |
| • qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2   | 3                     | -                     |
| • 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   | 0                     | -                     |
| • 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                           | 95%                   | -                     |

\* Special Educational Needs

\*\* 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                           | 2                | 1                |
| Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications | 2                | 1                |
| New appointments within previous 12 months        | 0                | 1                |

| <b>Number of: ***</b> |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Students              | 0 |
| 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> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2½ hours                           | -                                    | 188   |

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Number issued to parents:   | 7     |
| Percentage returned:        | 71.4% |
| Number of written comments: | 1     |

## **NAÍScoil NA BANNA, PORTADOWN, CO ARMAGH, BT62 1EB (5AB-0392)**

1. The centre is situated on ground at the rear of St John the Baptist Primary School and Bunscoil Eoin Baiste. Since the last inspection there has been a change in leadership.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the centre through the inspection questionnaires. The responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection. In their response, nearly all of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision. An analysis of the questionnaires and the comments made have been shared with the staff.

3. The centre has a written policy on child protection and the staff implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the welfare of the children. The staff need to review some of the procedures and share the information with the parents. There is a need to update the training in child protection procedures for the designated member of the management group.

4. The centre demonstrates a strong commitment to promoting healthy eating habits and a healthy lifestyle among the children.

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

- There is a friendly atmosphere in the centre; relationships at all levels are good. The staff work hard to create an interesting environment for the children; good use is made of the children's art work and topical displays to enhance the playroom. The children appear happy and are generally well-behaved.
- Valuable links have been established with the parents and the primary schools to which the children will transfer.
- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner; they use spoken Irish confidently and competently with the children to promote their learning; they are skilful in responding appropriately to the children's contributions in English. The children demonstrate a good understanding of spoken Irish; they respond well to staff directions, instructions and to questions during play.
- The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable provides a good balance of free play and activities organised by the staff. Appropriate time is given to story and physical play sessions outdoors. The snack routine provides opportunities for the children to develop their social skills and independence.
- There are satisfactory and at times good opportunities for learning in many aspects of the pre-school curriculum; the promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development is a particular strength.
- The staff regularly monitor the children's play and record their responses, achievements and needs. The information gained is shared informally with the parents and used to inform future planning.

- The leader promotes a team-spirit; the staff are very hard-working and committed to the future development of the centre.

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

- The staff need to develop further the methods of planning, and in particular, focus on the learning to be promoted in the short-term planning.
- The staff need to provide more formal opportunities throughout the year for reporting to parents on their children's progress.
- A better range of resources is required for all areas of play in order to provide a more varied and challenging programme that will progress steadily throughout the year.

7. The centre has not yet begun the formal process of self-evaluation.

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.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The high rail perimeter fence and the chain-link fencing which edges the primary school playground are not secure.

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