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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

**Naiscoil na Gaslainne
Derry**

Inspected: October 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Naiscoil na Gaslainne
Address:	128 Lecky Road Brandywell DERRY BT48 6NP
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	17 October 2007
Date of previous inspection:	7 February 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	20	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	16	-
• funded by Department of Education	15	-
• 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	1	-
• 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	88%	-

* 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	0	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainees	0

*** 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
3 hours	-	187

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	18
Percentage returned:	44.4%
Number of written comments:	2

NAÍScoil NA GASLAINNE, BRANDYWELL, DERRY, BT48 6NP (2AB-0386)

1. The centre is situated in mobile accommodation within the grounds of the Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir. The children come from the local area. Since the last inspection there have been several staffing changes: the present leader took up post in September 2007, and a new early years specialist was appointed from September 2007.

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 and any issues raised have been shared with the staff. Those who responded expressed high levels of satisfaction with the work of the centre.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has a few strengths. Although some appropriate practice is in place, there are important areas for improvement which require prompt action. The pre-school centre's policies and procedures for child protection need to be reviewed and improved. In particular, action is needed to:

- identify the designated members of staff for child protection and share this information with the parents;
- agree procedures for dealing with a suspicion against a member of staff; and
- include within the child protection policy an anti-bullying statement and risk assessment procedures in relation to trips and visits.

The District Inspector will return to the centre within a six week period to ensure that these important issues are addressed appropriately.

4. The centre's 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 centre's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.

- The centre has a very positive ethos based on good relationships at all levels; there is a caring and supportive atmosphere which helps to promote the children's confidence and self-esteem; the children respond well to the staff and their behaviour is good.
- The daily timetable is well organised to provide a good balance of free play and adult-led activities. Routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to provide choice and promote the children's independence.
- The staff are closely involved in the children's play and are very responsive to their needs. The interactions between the staff and the children help to promote settled, co-operative and purposeful play. The staff manage large group activities very skilfully.

- Within the broad range of activities provided, particular emphasis has been placed on the children's personal, social and emotional development and the promotion of early mathematical ideas.
- The quality of the interaction, through the medium of Irish, between the staff and the children is of a high standard. The staff are competent Irish speakers and promote the use of the language effectively. During the daily routines, the children use many high frequency words and phrases, and are beginning to express opinions in Irish. Their responses to the Naiscoil staff indicate a good understanding of spoken Irish.

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

- The staff should continue to develop their methods of observing and recording the children's progress across all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- Aspects of the planned programme, including outdoor play, should be developed further to ensure more challenge for those children experiencing their second year within the centre.

7. The centre is managed very effectively. The staff work well together and meet regularly to plan and evaluate the programme. Although the leader has been in post for a short time, she is an excellent role-model in her work with the children. The centre's early years specialist has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The support provided is well focused and includes valuable feedback to the staff on important aspects of their practice. The staff should now work with their early years specialist and the management group to create a development plan for the centre, which should include action plans to take forward the issues identified during this inspection.

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

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

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