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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 gCrann
Omagh**

Inspected: November 2006

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Naíscoil na gCrann
Address:	Dún Uladh Ballinamullin OMAGH Co Tyrone BT79 0NF
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	20 November 2006
Date of previous inspection:	N/A

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	14	0
• in their immediate pre-school year	8	0
• funded by Department of Education	8	0
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	1	0
• with a statement of SEN*	0	0
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	0	0
• with English as an additional language	0	0
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	2	0
Attendance:		
• percentage attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	98%	0

* 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	2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	2
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
2¾ hours	-	188

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	14
Percentage returned:	42.9%
Number of written comments:	4

NAÍScoil NA GCRANN, DÚN ULADH, OMAGH, CO TYRONE (2AB 0529)

1. The centre is situated at Dún Uladh on the outskirts of Omagh. Within the last year, there has been a change in leadership. The children come mainly from English-speaking homes in the local area.

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. Those who responded expressed a high level of satisfaction with the work of the naíscoil.

3. The centre has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection that comply with the Department of Education Circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that the policies and procedures are implemented effectively by the staff.

4. The staff demonstrate a commitment to promoting healthy eating among the children. Regular opportunities are provided for the children to engage in a range of physical activities.

5. The staff use their Irish well at all times in the playroom. As neither members of staff are completely fluent, confident speakers of Irish, they need to spend more time planning the language they will use when interacting with the children to promote their learning.

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

- The climate of the naíscoil is caring and friendly and relationships at all levels are good. The playroom is laid out in distinct areas for play that the children clearly enjoy.
- Valuable links have been established with the parents and also the gaelscoil which most of the children will attend. The staff plan to develop links with other naíscoileanna and pre-school centres.
- There are satisfactory and at times good learning opportunities in some areas of the pre-school curriculum. The staff, and the early years specialist are aware of the need to develop areas of the programme further, in particular the areas of physical development and language development need attention.
- The staff provide sustained support for the children who demonstrate a good understanding of spoken Irish; at times some of the children respond to questions in Irish.
- The leader is enthusiastic and committed to the future development of the naíscoil. The staff are hard-working and work very well as a team.

7. 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 assessment in order to highlight more clearly the learning to be promoted in all areas of play and ensure that the children's progress is linked effectively to the planning.
- The staff need to review the procedures for identifying, monitoring, reporting and supporting those children identified as having special educational needs.
- More resources are required for all areas of play to ensure a progressively broad and challenging pre-school programme.

8. The staff are at a very early stage in the process of self-evaluation.

9. The naíscoil 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 naíscoil's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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