

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Naíscóil na mBeann, Kilkeel

Report of an Inspection
in December 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

Name of pre-school setting:	Naíscoil na mBeann
Address:	139a Newcastle Road Kilkeel ARDGLASS Co Down BT34 4NL
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	11 December 2012
Date of previous inspection:	N/A

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school setting	26	-
in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	19	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	0	-
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	88.39%	-

* Special Educational Needs = fewer than five

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

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

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	-	

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	23
Percentage returned	61%
Number of written comments:	5

1. Introduction

Naíscoil na mBeann opened in 2007 and has offered funded pre-school places from 2009. It is situated in a purpose built mobile unit on a shared site with Gaelscoil na mBeann, Kilkeel. A new assistant was appointed 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. Twenty-three questionnaires were issued to the parents and fourteen were returned with five additional written comments. All of the staff and a small number of the management group also returned the questionnaires with written comments. All of the returns from the questionnaires indicated high levels of satisfaction with the work of the naíscoil. In particular, the parents noted the caring and friendly staff. The reporting inspector shared the responses from the questionnaires with the staff and the members of the management group who attended the oral report back.

3. Overall finding of the inspection

In the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this naíscoil is good; the naíscoil has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement in the provision for learning which the naíscoil has demonstrated the capacity to address. The inspectorate will monitor the naíscoil's progress on the area for improvement.

Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements	Good
Quality of Provision	Good
Leadership and management	Good

KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

4. Children's Achievements

The quality of the children's achievements is good.

- Most of the children are well-settled for the time of year; they are developing positive attitudes to their learning and show a good understanding of the Irish spoken to them by the staff.
- During the inspection, most of the children engaged in purposeful play; they showed high levels of concentration and independence, played collaboratively with each other and co-operated well with the adults.
- The children demonstrate a keen interest in the arts; they take part in sustained role play, participate enthusiastically in singing and music making and work creatively with a range of media to make simple representations.

5. Provision for Learning

The quality of the provision for learning is good.

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the naíscoil is very good. The staff know the children well; they demonstrate commitment to both the care and well-being of the children and to the promotion of their independence and self-management skills. The positive relationships at all levels foster an inclusive and child-centred ethos in the naíscoil.
- The 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.
- The staff have developed a comprehensive approach to planning, to observing the children at play and to recording their responses. They use their observations well to assess the progress of the children's learning. The staff now need to make better use of the assessments and their daily evaluations to inform further their planning of the provision in order to meet the differing needs of all the children.
- The children are provided with a healthy snack and have regular access to drinking water. The staff use the outdoor area well to provide good opportunities for the children to grow vegetables and to engage in energetic, physical activity.
- The leader is a good role model for effectively developing the children's acquisition of the Irish language. The quality of the staff's spoken Irish during the inspection was variable; the staff need to continue to develop their own competence in the Irish language.

6. Leadership and Management

The quality of leadership and management is good.

- The staff are developing well a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement. They evaluate the provision regularly and have appropriately identified key priorities for improvement.
- The naíscoil staff have the support of an early years' specialist (EYS) from ALTRAM. The EYS has provided good, focused advice to the group and is supporting them well with the ongoing improvement of their provision within the naíscoil.
- The naíscoil has developed very good links with parents through a regular, informative newsletter and organised monthly visits to observe and participate in aspects of their children's learning in the naíscoil. The parents also have the opportunity to attend Irish language classes along with the parents from the Gaelscoil.
- 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 Department of Education.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this naíscoil is good; the naíscoil has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement in the provision for learning which the naíscoil has demonstrated the capacity to address. The inspectorate will monitor the naíscoil's progress on the area for improvement.

The area for improvement is:

- the need for the staff to make better use of their observations of the children's progress and their daily evaluations to ensure the provision meets the differing needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the naíscoil's progress in addressing the area for improvement.

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