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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Náiscoil na Speiríní  
Magherafelt**

**Inspected: November 2007**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Náiscoil na Speiríní
<b>Address:</b>	53 Moneyneena Road Draperstown MAGHERAFELT Co Derry BT45 7EN
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	7 November 2007
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	3 June 2003

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	9	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	9	-
• funded by Department of Education	9	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• 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	97%	-

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

<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:	9
Percentage returned:	100%
Number of written comments:	4

**NÁISCOIL NA SPEIRÍNÍ, DRAPERSTOWN, MAGHERAFELT, CO DERRY,  
BT45 7EN (3AB-0481)**

1. The centre is situated in the Community Hall in Moneyneena. A new leader and assistant were appointed in 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. All of the parents were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the centre's provision. Some of the parent's added written comments which highlighted the very positive ethos and the commitment and dedication of the new staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has some strengths. The pre-school centre has some appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. These need to be developed further to ensure that they are sufficiently detailed and understood fully by all of the staff and that they provide clearer procedures for toileting. There is a need to ensure that members from the management committee receive appropriate training on child protection matters and that the centre consults more fully with the parents during the review and development of these child protection procedures.

4. The centre's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, with a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily and be physically active.

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

- The centre has a very warm, happy and caring atmosphere within the playroom. The children respond well to the staff's approach to promoting good behaviour and are well settled and purposeful in their play. Relationships are very good at all levels. The staff have worked hard to create an inviting, well organised and stimulating learning environment for the children.
- There are satisfactory opportunities for learning in most aspects of the curriculum. During the inspection the children's language is developed through skilful and interesting story-telling, the use of rhymes, songs and discussion with the children and the use made of natural and real materials in the imaginative play area.
- The daily timetable is well organised and provides suitable periods of uninterrupted play during which the children have adequate time to make choices and to explore freely the range of activities provided. Appropriate time is given to story and physical play sessions.

- The staff are skilful in naturally promoting language and learning through the play activities, group sessions and the daily routines. Both members of staff interact confidently with the children in Irish; they have demonstrated a commitment to developing their Irish language competence further by attending Irish classes to their current levels. The children demonstrate a good understanding of spoken Irish and are beginning to use the common words in Irish during their interactions with each other and with the adults in the centre.
- The centre has established and is developing valuable pastoral and curricular links with the adjacent Irish-medium primary school and other local pre-school settings.
- The newly-appointed leader is managing the centre effectively. She is a very good role-model in her work with the children and she has a clear vision for the development of the centre. She has identified appropriately areas for developing and this has led to significant improvements in the children's experiences in relation to their personal, social, and emotional development and language development in a relatively short period of time.

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

- There is a need to update the child protection procedures to ensure they are detailed and comprehensive and shared appropriately with the parents.
- The staff need to continue to develop the planning and assessment methods in order to ensure the needs of individual children are met.
- The centre needs to continue to develop the resources in order to ensure the children receive appropriate challenge and progression in all areas of the programme throughout the year.

7. The staff have started to implement some useful methods of self-evaluation. Although this work is at an early stage, some progress has been made in creating an appropriate learning environment for the children and developing the practice in the playroom. The early years specialist (EYS) has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in this pre-school centre. The support provided is well focused, in particular the appropriate priority areas identified for improvement, identifying health and safety issues promptly and supporting the staff effectively in recent months. It is vital that the management committee, the staff and the EYS now work together to develop further action plans in light of the inspection findings.

8. The centre has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas 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 centre's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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