



*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 Neachtain  
Dungiven**

**Inspected: April 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of pre-school centre:</b>	Naíscoil Neachtain
<b>Address:</b>	55 Garvagh Road DUNGIVEN Co Derry BT47 4LU
<b>Management Type:</b>	Voluntary

<b>Date of inspection:</b>	21 April 2009
<b>Date of previous inspection:</b>	9 February 2004

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Total number of children:</b>	<b>am session</b>	<b>pm session</b>
• attending the pre-school centre	15	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	13	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	13	-
• 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	2	-
• 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	75%	-

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

<b>Number of: **</b>	
Students	1
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	N/A	188

## 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	14
Percentage returned:	64%
Number of written comments:	4

## **NAÍScoil NEACHTAIN, DUNGIVEN, CO DERRY, BT47 4LU (2AB-0046)**

1. Naíscoil Neachtain is an Irish-medium pre-school centre situated in purpose-built accommodation on the outskirts of Dungiven, County Derry. There are currently 15 children attending the naíscoil; 13 of them attend on a full-time basis and are in their pre-school year. The leader and assistant were appointed in September 2007.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, staff and management group to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Nine of the parents responded to the questionnaire and four made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicate that the parents regard the naíscoil highly and they appreciate:

- the creative and stimulating activities provided;
- the bright and attractive premises;
- the caring ethos; and
- their involvement in the work of the naíscoil.

The responses from the staff questionnaires were wholly positive; the management group responses highlighted their involvement in the naíscoil's development planning process and the spirit of team-work within the naíscoil.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the naíscoil is very good. Among the strengths are the caring and happy ethos, the emphasis placed on promoting respect for self and others and the excellent working relationships at all levels.

4. The naíscoil has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

5. The naíscoil gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the children are provided with a daily healthy snack and the recently resourced outdoor play area provides appropriate challenging and stimulating opportunities for physical play.

**6. The main strengths of the naíscoil's educational and pastoral provision are as follows:**

- the very positive ethos of the naíscoil which promotes the children's self-esteem, confidence and independence;
- the broad and balanced curriculum which offers the children good opportunities for learning across all the areas of the pre-school curriculum including regular visits to places of local interest to further enhance the children's learning experiences;

- the effective procedures for self-evaluation leading to improvement and the strategic professional development of the staff in line with the appropriately identified curriculum priorities;
- the very good working relationships with parents and the effective links with external agencies in supporting the individual learning needs of the children;
- the vision and strategic management of the committed leader, ably supported by the hard-working and dedicated assistant, and the involvement of the management committee in the life and work of the naíscoil; and
- the bright and spacious, purpose-built accommodation and outdoor area which provide a stimulating learning environment with clearly identified areas of play.

**7. The inspection identified the following area for improvement:**

- for the staff to ensure that Irish is the predominant working language of the naíscoil and that staff use Irish more consistently to extend the children's language and learning.

8. The staff have worked hard to develop and implement useful methods of self-evaluation. Good progress has been made in observing the practice in the playroom, reviewing resources and use of accommodation and organisation of the daily routine. The staff have identified the need to develop further their Irish language competence and have begun appropriate clustering arrangements with other Irish-medium pre-school centres in the area to improve this crucial aspect of the provision. The early years specialist has made an excellent contribution to the overall development of the provision in this naíscoil. The support is well focused and matches effectively the needs of the naíscoil. The cluster support, self-evaluation strategies and appropriate identification of staff professional development needs are particular strengths.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.