

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Naíscóil Shliabh gCuilinn,
Jonesborough

Report of an Inspection
in November 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 Shliabh gCuilinn
Address:	The Pastoral Centre Jonesborough NEWRY Co Down BT35 8HR
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	28 November 2012
Date of previous inspection:	N/A

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school setting	16	-
in their immediate pre-school year	10	-
funded by Department of Education (DE)	10	-
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	10	-
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	98%	-

* 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	2	1
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	0	0
New appointments within previous 12 months	1	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
3½ hours	-	186

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	16
Percentage returned	69%
Number of written comments:	8

1. Introduction

Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn opened in 2009; it is situated in the Pastoral Centre in the village of Jonesborough, County Armagh. The naíscoil shares the accommodation with several other organisations and the staff are required to tidy away all furniture and equipment on a daily basis. A new part-time 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. Sixteen questionnaires were issued to the parents and eleven were returned with eight 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. 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.

- The children are very well-settled for the time of year and show good levels of independence and self-management.
- The children show a good understanding of, and respond well to, the Irish spoken to them by the staff.
- During the inspection, almost all of the children engaged in sustained, purposeful play. They demonstrate self-confidence and are learning to work both independently and as part of a group; they are learning to share and take turns.

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. There is a happy, caring ethos within the naíscoil, which is evidenced by the effective working relationships at all levels and the exemplary behaviour displayed by all of the children.
- The staff work hard to create and maintain a bright, attractive, stimulating and clean learning environment in the playroom. The staff have appropriately identified the need to develop further the outdoor play area to ensure that the provision is broad and balanced.
- The staff have made a good start in developing a systematic approach to planning the curriculum and to observing the children at play. In order to meet the individual needs of all the children, they now need to develop this further by ensuring that their observations inform the assessment of the children's learning and that they influence future planning.
- The naíscoil staff give good attention to healthy eating and physical activity through the provision of a healthy snack, regular access to drinking water and the regular opportunities for energetic play.
- The staff work hard to create a language-rich environment and make effective use of songs and stories to support the children's acquisition of the Irish language. The quality of the staff's spoken Irish during the inspection was variable; the staff have identified appropriately the need to develop further their own competence in the Irish language.

6. Leadership and Management

The quality of leadership and management is good.

- The staff have begun to develop a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement. There is a three-year development plan in place which has identified appropriate priorities for the future development of the naíscoil.
- The naíscoil staff are supported well by an early years' specialist (EYS) from ALTRAM, who has provided good, focused advice to the staff. She has acted as a good role model in effective immersion strategies and approaches.
- The naíscoil has developed effective links with parents through, for example, information evenings and monthly newsletters. Links have also been fostered with the local primary school and with the nearest bunscoil.
- 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 naíscóil is good; the naíscóil 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 naíscóil has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The area for improvement is:

- in order to meet the individual needs of all the children, the staff now need to ensure that their own observations inform their assessment of the children's learning and that they also influence future planning.

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

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