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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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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

Náiscoil Uí Neill
Coalisland

Inspected: February 2007

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Náiscoil Uí Neill
Address:	104 Washing Bay Road COALISLAND Co Tyrone BT71 4PU
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	28 February 2007
Date of previous inspection:	17 January 2001

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	26	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	19	-
• funded by Department of Education	19	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	8	-
• with a statement of SEN*	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for SEN	2	-
• 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	90%	-

* 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	3
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	3
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	1

Number of: ***	
Students	1
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	-	189

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	20
Percentage returned:	50%
Number of written comments:	6

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF NÁISCOIL UÍ NEILL, COALISLAND, CO TYRONE BT71 4PU (5BB-0311)

1. The centre is situated within the grounds of Gaelscoil Uí Neill. The centre provides a programme of early immersion learning through the medium of the Irish language. Since the last inspection, a new leader and assistant have been appointed, the centre has acquired new mobile accommodation, and a secure outdoor play area has been developed.

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 high levels of satisfaction with the work of the centre.

3. The pre-school centre has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection. The inspection evidence indicates that the staff implement these policies and procedures effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The pre-school has begun to implement practices to promote a healthy lifestyle among the children. There are regular opportunities for the children to participate in a range of physical activities.

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

- There is a friendly, welcoming atmosphere within the centre based on good relationships between the staff, parents and children. The children's behaviour is good; they respond well to the staff and co-operate with each other during play.
- The centre is bright and spacious with clearly defined areas for play. The children are encouraged to plan their play activities each day and resources are easily accessible.
- The daily timetable is carefully organised to provide a good balance of free play and appropriate adult-led activities. Routines are unobtrusive and help promote the children's independence.
- During the inspection, there were many examples of effective staff interaction when the staff supported the children's ideas and extended their language and learning. The staff demonstrate confidence and competence in their use of Irish to promote learning. The children's responses indicate a good understanding of spoken Irish.
- Appropriate systems of planning and assessment are in place. The written planning outlines a broad, balanced programme for the children, which provides satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The staff provide sensitive support for those children identified as having special educational needs.

- A variety of methods is used to inform the parents of their children's learning and to involve them in the work of the centre.
- Effective links have been established with the primary school to which the children transfer. The staff share information about aspects of the pre-school curriculum and the progress the children have made.

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

- The staff should continue to develop the outside play space in order to provide a range of stimulating and challenging learning experiences across the pre-school curriculum.
- There is a need to exploit more fully the opportunities within the play activities to promote and extend the children's early mathematical experiences.

7. The leader is enthusiastic and manages the centre effectively. There is a strong sense of team-work among the staff. They demonstrate a reflective approach to their work and regularly evaluate the provision. The staff receive valuable support from the centre's early years specialist, and have begun to take a more structured approach to self-evaluation. The staff should now draw up a development plan for the centre and begin to gather evidence of improvement in the areas highlighted during this inspection.

8. The pre-school centre has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the pre-school centre has the capacity to address.

The pre-school centre's progress on the areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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