



*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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil na gCrann
Omagh**

September 2008

SECOND FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil NA GCRANN, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 0GZ (2AB-0529)

The follow-up inspection in Naíscoil na gCrann, Omagh in March 2008 highlighted strengths in the enthusiastic leader, the caring and supportive relationships between the staff and the children, the satisfactory to good opportunities to learn in most areas of the pre-school programme, and the children's developing understanding of the Irish language. It identified the need for further improvement in the following key areas, previously reported in the original inspection of November 2006:

- planning and assessment in order to highlight more clearly the learning to be promoted in all areas of play, and ensure that the children's progress is linked effectively to the planning; and
- a review of the procedures for identifying, monitoring, reporting and supporting those children identified with special educational needs.

In the interval since the first follow-up inspection, the following action which affects the work of the pre-school centre has taken place:

- significant staff changes, with two new members of staff recently appointed;
- substantial funding provided to equip a very good outdoor play area; and
- additional resources supplied for the playroom, which enhance the all-round provision for play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a second follow-up inspection on 30 September 2008.

The pre-school centre is in the early stages of constructing a development plan. The chairperson who is the Principal of the neighbouring Gaelscoil na gCrann provides good guidance and support for the development planning of the provision.

The staff have developed planning and assessment procedures, made links with outside agencies and as reported at the previous follow-up inspection, substantial funding has been invested in good quality resources particularly in the outdoor area. The evidence from the second follow-up inspection process indicates that good progress has been made in addressing the areas identified for action in the original inspection. The following key areas have been addressed:

- the staff have implemented advice, guidance and support from the early years specialist to develop further the methods of planning and assessment in order to highlight more clearly the learning to be promoted in all areas of play and to ensure that the children's progress is linked effectively to planning;
- the staff work well as a team; they are more evaluative of the children's responses to the play activities provided and as a result the needs of the individual children are more effectively met; and

- the experience and training gained by the leader in supporting the children identified with special educational needs is positively impacting on the quality of the provision for all the children.

Since the inspection, the pre-school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are further developed to focus strongly on improvement.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the pre-school's response to the findings of the inspections and in its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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