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*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**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick**

January 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil DHÚN PÁDRAIG DOWNPATRICK, CO DOWN, BT30 6BS (4AB-0409)

The inspection of Naíscoil Dhún Pádraig in March 2010 highlighted strengths in the working relationships at all levels; the management of the centre by the new leader; the team-approach to curricular development; the advice given by the ALTRAM early years adviser; the good quality of the children's role-play; and the children's developing understanding of the Irish language. The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the planning and assessment methods in order to identify more clearly the learning to be promoted and demonstrate progression and challenge in the pre-school programme throughout the year.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the centre has taken place:

- two new members of staff were employed in the naíscoil;
- all of the staff are continuing to attend Irish language classes;
- two staff members are undertaking the diploma in early immersion education; and
- funding has been made available for the purchase of additional resources.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in February, and October 2011, and a follow-up inspection on 10 January 2012.

The action plan produced by the centre in response to the 2010 inspection findings was of good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the quality of the interaction between the staff and the children is more consistently of a high standard;
- the quality of the Irish used by the staff has improved;
- the staff are more focused on the learning to be promoted through the planned activities;
- the staff are recording more appropriate observations of the children's learning and development and they are beginning to use the information to inform the future planning; and
- the planning has been reviewed and includes interesting and stimulating learning opportunities for the children.

The areas which require further improvement are:

- continue to develop the planning and observation to take account of the children's differing needs, including their developing use of Irish; and

- continue to develop the staff's competency in Irish, and ensure uniformity of accuracy.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this naíscoil is now good. The naíscoil has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the naíscoil has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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