

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Naíscoil an Traonaigh,
Lisnaskea

Report of an Inspection
in May 2012

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Naíscoil an Traonaigh
Address:	Drumbrughas North LISNASKEA Co Fermanagh BT92 0PE
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	10 May 2012
Date of previous inspection:	13 October 2005

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	15	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	9	-
• funded by Department of Education	9	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• 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	N/A	-

* 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		2
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications		2
New appointments within previous 12 months		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
2 ½ hours	N/A	N/A

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	12
Percentage returned:	91.6%
Number of written comments:	8

NAÍScoil AN TRAONAIGH, LISNASKEA, CO FERMANAGH, BT92 0PE (2BB-0484)

1. Naíscoil an Traonaigh is accommodated in purpose-built rooms within the grounds of Bunscoil an Traonaigh on the outskirts of Lisnaskea. Since the last inspection in 2005, a new leader and assistant have been appointed and an outdoor play area has been developed.

2. In the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this naíscoil is very good. The naíscoil is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

CHILDREN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

3. The children are very well settled and all engaged in sustained, purposeful and productive play throughout the session observed. They are eager to explore and make full use of the attractively presented learning environment and co-operate readily with the staff. All of the children demonstrate very good progress in their development, for example, they display very good levels of independence, and play collaboratively.

4. The staff have created a language rich environment which promotes and extends the children's language development. Almost all of the children can talk confidently about their work and their achievements. They show a good understanding of the Irish spoken by the staff and a small number of children respond to the staff in Irish. The children make good use of the attractive book area and enjoy the group story session. Appropriate books and photographs are also incorporated into areas of play; on occasions during the inspection, the staff and children made very good use of these. The staff provide very good opportunities for the children to experiment with mark making and early writing and much of the art work produced by the children is representational and of a high quality.

PROVISION FOR LEARNING

5. The attractively presented and well organised playroom provides very good opportunities for learning in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The staff make excellent use of natural products to enhance the children's learning. During the inspection, the staff used Irish well when interacting with the children. The children enjoyed songs and rhymes in Irish at various times throughout the session. The adult interactions with the children are consistently of a very high quality; the staff frequently ask open-ended questions and extend the children's language and learning by providing them with new vocabulary and ideas. During the inspection, the staff often engaged the children in valuable discussion about their play and experiences, and participated sensitively in many of the activities. The children's ideas are listened to and acted upon in order to extend and develop their learning.

6. The thoughtful organisation of the daily timetable ensures a good balance between free play and activities organised by the staff. Transitions between activities and routines are managed very well and, as a result, the session flows smoothly and all the time is used effectively for learning.

7. The children have daily access to an enclosed outdoor space for physical play. The staff have given much thought to the planning of this area to ensure maximum use of the space, progression in the children's physical development and the promotion of imaginative play.

8. The staff have developed an effective method of planning which outlines variety, challenge and progression in the programme. Reflective evaluations are based on the children's responses during activities and are often used to inform future learning. The staff have identified the need to develop further the naíscóil's assessment and planning cycle to ensure that the individual needs of all the children are met.

9. The naíscóil has very good procedures in place for supporting those children identified with special educational needs (SEN). The children's needs are identified early and documented appropriately. Individual education plans have been developed to support the children and effective links established with the parents and other health professionals.

10. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the naíscóil is outstanding. The atmosphere is friendly and welcoming and is based on an ethos of mutual respect. Among the strengths of the playgroup are the very positive working relationships at all levels and the priority given to the children's needs and interests. The children appear happy confident and well behaved.

11. On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the naíscóil has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

12. The naíscóil gives excellent attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the children have access to a healthy snack and drinking water, they grow their own vegetables and they have regular opportunities to engage in physical activity. This provision encourages the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

13. The leader has a clear vision for the development of the playgroup and has drawn up a development plan which outlines appropriate targets. She is an excellent role model and is supported very effectively by the creative and skilful assistant who has a shared understanding of the aims of the centre. A very good start has been made in developing the process of self-evaluation. The early years specialist (EYS), from Altram, has made a good contribution to the overall development of the provision.

14. The key strengths of the naíscóil include:

- the very positive, inclusive ethos in the naíscóil that contributes to the high quality care provided for the children;
- the confident, well-settled children who display high levels of independence;
- the very high quality of the interaction between the staff and the children;
- the very good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- the smooth organisation of the day with a good balance between free play and organised activities and
- the very effective leader and the skilful and dedicated assistant.

15. In the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this naíscóil is very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

QUESTIONNAIRES

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Eleven of the parents responded to the questionnaire and eight made additional written comments; all of the returns indicate a high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the naíscóil's work. The responses from the management group and the staff were also very positive. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and the management of the naíscóil.

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