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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíonra an Droichid
Belfast**

November 2007

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN NAÍONRA AN DROICHID, BELFAST, BT7 2EP (1AB-0019)

The inspection in November 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the staff interaction and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the organisation and management of outdoor play;
- the assessment methods; and
- the settling-in and transport arrangements.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the pre-school centre has taken place.

- A new leader was appointed and took up post in August 2006 and a new early years specialist (EYS) was appointed and took up post in September 2006.
- Additional resources for the development of the physical play programme have been purchased.
- The staff have attended a range of relevant training in autism, language development and child protection. A number of the playgroup staff are also receiving training to increase their childcare and education qualifications.
- Staff have consulted with parents and amended their settling-in arrangements.
- Transport arrangements now ensure a member of staff accompanies the pre-school children when they are on the bus. The pre-school children no longer share the journeys with the primary age children.
- The staff are developing a garden area.
- All of the policies have been updated.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a series of inspection visits to the centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 15 November 2007 and also takes account of the findings of the visit on 6 December 2006. Evidence from the initial visit had indicated a significant deterioration in the quality of the provision.

The pre-school centre is now making good progress and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the original inspection.

- The new settling-in arrangements provide a better transition for the children into the pre-school centre. The children clearly understand the necessary rules and routines and are developing effectively their confidence, independence and social skills.

- The reviewed arrangements for transport on the bus provided by the Naíonra ensure better supervision of the children and facilitate improved contact with the parents.
- The assessment methods are more systematic and are beginning to be used effectively to inform the planning and meet individual needs.
- The children have better opportunities to engage in appropriate physical play both indoors and outdoors. During the inspection visit, the children engaged in a well organised and enjoyable music and movement session. The staff are working closely with their EYS to ensure the programme provides sufficient challenge and progression through the year.
- The developing links with the local SureStart project are adding value to the work of the centre through the Language for Life programme and individual support for children's language delay.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- the continued development of the physical play programme; and
- to continue to embed and build on the improvements noted in this report.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection; some minor areas still require improvement. The organisation has made a useful start to developing a process of self-evaluation which leads to improvement.

The centre's progress in the minor areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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