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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil an Damba
Belfast**

January 2008

REPORT OF A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN NAÍScoil AN DAMBA, BELFAST, BT12 7FR (1AB-0493)

The follow-up inspection in October 2006 identified the need for continued improvement in the following key areas:

- the recording of the children's progress;
- the use of assessment to inform the planning; and
- the need for the centres early years specialist (EYS) to provide more systematic and focused support.

In the interval since the inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the pre-school centre have taken place:

- there are currently only six pre-school children enrolled, a number which falls below the minimum required for the centre to be a part of the pre-school programme;
- a new EYS was appointed in November 2006 and has been providing guidance and support for the staff;
- the staff have attended additional training in, for example, First Aid and the promotion of the children's physical development;
- the staff have run a workshop session for the children's parents to raise their awareness of healthy eating; and
- the leader is seeking to establish working relationships with the local SureStart project. The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) endorses the establishment of these links and the benefits they can provide for both the children and the parents.

This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 14 January 2008.

The pre-school centre has a basic development plan; it has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements brought about by the staff and the management group:

- the new EYS has provided well focused and relevant training and support;
- the children are more settled and purposefully engaged in their play throughout the session;
- the staff are developing a more systematic method for recording the children's progress and are beginning to use this information to plan for individual children's needs;
- the daily routines are being used more effectively to promote a wider range of learning;
- there are more regular, daily opportunities for physical play; and
- the staff are building a strong sense of team-work and are clearly motivated to bring about continuous improvement.

The areas which need further improvement are:

- the continued development of the assessment methods;
- the link between assessment and planning through the more explicit recording of the additional support to be given to individual children;
- the suitable level of challenge in the physical play ; and
- the efforts made to involve the parents more fully in their children's education and development.

The pre-school is in the very early stages of development planning and self-evaluation. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes used for development planning focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

The follow-up inspection findings confirm that the pre-school school centre has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but a few important areas for improvement remain to be addressed more fully.

The pre-school's progress will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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