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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin
Belfast**

February 2008

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION IN NAÍScoil BHEANN MHADAGÁIN, BELFAST, BT14 6HP (1BB-0016)

The inspection in Naíscoil Bheann Mhadagáin highlighted strengths in the ethos and in the staff's use of the Irish language to promote learning; it also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the review of the daily timetable to provide longer periods of uninterrupted play for the children;
- the need to provide more progression and challenge in the physical play programme; and
- the more effective organisation of the group story and rhyme sessions.

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

- there has been a high turnover of staff;
- a former naíscoil assistant was appointed as a temporary acting-leader in September 2007;
- there has been a number of early years specialists (EYS) supporting the centre with the current EYS appointed in November 2007;
- the number of pre-school children has decreased from 20 children, over a morning and afternoon session, to nine in an extended morning session;
- new fencing and gates have secured the outdoor play area; and
- additional resources have been purchased for developing the physical play programme.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a series of inspection visits to the pre-school centre as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 4 February 2008 but it also takes account of the findings of the visit in February 2007. Evidence from the first monitoring visit indicated a serious deterioration in the quality of the provision and the lack of adequate EYS support.

Work has begun to enhance the resources for physical play, there is a more extended period of uninterrupted play, and a monthly newsletter for parents has been developed. Nevertheless, the quality of the provision for early learning and the quality of the children's learning, have deteriorated since the original inspection and are both poor. The pre-school centre does not have a development plan.

The Inspectorate does not have confidence in the capacity of the current leadership and management to bring about the necessary sustained improvement.

This report has been referred to the Department of Education to determine the most appropriate action to be taken.

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