

4 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Argus Playgroup. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager/head of setting and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- The acting manager and practitioners create a welcoming and inclusive ethos, with children and families at the heart of their work. They prioritise and have a strong focus on wellbeing. This supports children to feel valued and respected as individuals.
- Children are eager to learn and engage well in their play. They are confident, lead their learning and are curious and motivated during their time in the playgroup.
- The acting manager very effectively leads a team of highly skilled practitioners. Together, they provide a wide range of quality learning experiences and interactions that meet children's needs and extend their interests well. This results in most children making good progress in their learning.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager/head of setting and a representative from Scottish Borders Council.

- The acting manager and practitioners should continue to develop the use of digital technology. This will enhance children's learning experiences further.
- The acting manager and practitioners should develop the tracking of children's personal achievements, to include the skills they learn. This will ensure all children have access to a wide range of opportunities and experiences at home and in the playgroup.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the setting's work using quality indicators from [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). Quality indicators help early learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Argus Playgroup

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

We are confident that the setting has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Scottish Borders Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Louise Phillips
HM Inspector