

10 October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate visited Newburgh Pre-School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager/head of setting and staff. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's success and achievements.

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

- Caring manager and practitioners who have developed a very welcoming and nurturing environment which enables children and their families to feel supported included and involved in the setting.
- Polite, well-behaved children who are developing independence and increasing confidence in their learning.
- Strong partnership with the parents' committee who are supporting improvement in the setting.
- Changes made to learning environment are resulting in increased opportunities for children to make their own decisions about where and with what they will play. The range of resources and natural and open-ended materials are enabling children to develop skills of curiosity and inquiry in their play.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head of setting and a representative from Aberdeenshire Council:

- Continue to use national self-evaluation and monitoring *How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare?* to identify future priorities taking account of the setting's strengths and areas for improvement.
- A system for tracking and monitoring needs to be introduced to focus tracking of children's developing skills in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This will ensure children make the best possible progress.
- Ensure all children are suitably challenged in their play and given more opportunities to develop and apply their early literacy and numeracy skills across learning, particularly during outdoor learning experiences.

Quality indicators help early learning and childcare settings, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the setting. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?*¹. This information informs Scottish Government policy for early learning and childcare.

Here are Education Scotland’s evaluations for Newburgh Pre-School.

Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children’s progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good

Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the setting

Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	adequate

Requirements/recommendations made by Care Inspectorate for the setting:

During the previous Care Inspectorate inspection, the setting had no requirements and no recommendations. As a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and two recommendations.

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/aberdeenshire/5241316> and

<http://www.careinspectorate.com/>

1. *How good is our Early Learning and Childcare?* 2016 – [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#)

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. Aberdeenshire Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any requirements and recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Sheona Moore
Managing Inspector

Andrew Hawthorne
Care Inspector

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Education Scotland**

Denholm House
Almondvale Business Park
Almondvale Way
Livingston EH54 6GA

T +44 (0)131 244 4330
E enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk

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