

25 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate visited Bothwell Montessori Nursery School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager and practitioners. We gathered evidence to evaluate the quality of leadership and management, learning provision and children's successes and achievements.

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

- Happy, safe, motivated and engaged children who make very good progress in their learning. This is supported by well-planned learning experiences.
- The very strong leadership of the principal and manager, together with the staff team, to ensure the very best outcomes for all children and families.
- Effective self-evaluation underpinned by strong collaboration between the staff team which leads to improved outcomes for children.
- Robust tracking of children's progress across the curriculum to ensure all children make maximum progress.
- The positive relationships between children, parents and the local community which are supporting children in their learning, wellbeing and development.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the principal, manager of the setting and a representative from South Lanarkshire Council:

- Continue to develop the effective transition from the setting to school through joint curricular learning. This could help promote continuity of learning from setting to school.
- Continue to evaluate the structure of the day to ensure children continue to receive high quality learning experiences at all times.

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 Bothwell Montessori Nursery School.

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

Here are the Care Inspectorate gradings for the setting

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

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 one recommendation.

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

Recommendation:

- The provider should ensure that recruitment records reflect the safer recruitment procedures followed. This includes the verification of references and safety checks having been completed prior to staff members commencing employment.
National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16;
Standard 12 - Confidence of staff.

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate website at

<https://education.gov.scot/reports/south-lanarkshire/8526613> and

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

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

Dr Noreen Phillips
HM Inspector

Kara Doonan
Care Inspector

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