

19 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2023, an inspector from Education Scotland visited Stramash Outdoor Nursery, Fort William. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the managers and staff.

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

- Children who are curious, responsible, and capable learners as they explore the possibilities of their outdoor setting.
- The positive, nurturing and respectful community of learners formed by children, practitioners and parents. Children learn about safety, collaborate and grow in confidence as they develop new skills due to well judged levels of sensitive support.
- Practitioners and experienced managers who communicate well to work as an effective team. Working with children, parents and partners they continually develop and improve the areas where children play and their experiences. This supports children to make good progress in their learning and development.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from The Highland Council.

- The management team should continue to develop further how children's learning is planned for, assessed and recorded in their online diaries over time.
- As planned, the staff team should involve children and families in identifying and recording specific next steps in learning.

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 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 Stramash Outdoor Nursery, Fort William.

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	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: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | 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. The Highland Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Margaret Paterson
HM Inspector