

17 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Eastriggs & Dornock Early Years. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager and practitioners.

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

- Supportive, trusting and positive relationships between practitioners, children and families. Children are listened to and respected as individuals. The relaxed play environment and patient team support children to feel secure. Children have fun, make friends, and are enthusiastic as they develop their interests.
- Well established partnership working with parents, local residents and businesses that lead to motivating learning experiences. Children develop their confidence and enjoy applying their skills for life and work as they plan, host and take part in community events.

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

- The team should work together to improve the balance between children leading their play and adults planning for their learning. Practitioners should ensure all experiences are challenging enough for children.
- The manager should develop further the skills and confidence of practitioners in observing, assessing and recording the progress children make in their learning. Practitioners should identify more clearly what children know and can do in their observations.
- Practitioners should use the information they gather about children's learning to better inform their planning of spaces and experiences. This should support children to make the very best progress.

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 Eastriggs & Dornock Early Years

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	satisfactory
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: [Eastriggs and Dornock Early Years | Inspection Report | 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. Dumfries and Galloway 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