

24 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Duchal Nursery School. 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.

- The strong sense of community created through positive and respectful relationships between the manager, practitioners, children and families. This results in a welcoming and inclusive culture where the wellbeing of children sits at the heart of the nursery.
- Children who are confident, articulate, enthusiastic, and eager to learn. They engage well in learning experiences, particularly outdoors, when using natural and open-ended resources. This is supporting children's curiosity, problem solving and imaginative play.
- The good progress children make in their learning. In particular, children's progress in early language and literacy as a result of a recent focus on developing children's use of rhyme.

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

- Continue with plans to develop further children's learning spaces indoors. Practitioners should provide a wider variety of areas with accessible open-ended and real-life materials. This will support children's play and levels of engagement more effectively.
- Continue to improve planning for children's learning and how practitioners check children's progress. Practitioners should demonstrate more clearly the skills children are developing and record these on a robust tracking system. This will help practitioners to show clearly the progress children make over time.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some of the setting's work using four 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. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish early learning and childcare settings are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Duchal Nursery School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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: [Duchal Nursery School | Inspection Report](#)

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

Sandra Kehoe
HM Inspector