

19 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Glaitness Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager/head of setting and staff.

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

- The inclusive, nurturing and welcoming ethos which is based on shared values and the nursery vision. Children are confident and safe in their environment.
- Enthusiastic practitioners who work effectively with the manager to improve the life chances and experiences of all children. The manager supports practitioners very well to continue to make improvements to the quality of children's experiences.
- The successful approaches to teaching children about their local community, plants and wildlife in the natural environment. This makes learning relevant and meaningful for children who are highly observant and benefit from a clear focus on their wellbeing.

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

- Continue to develop approaches to assessment of children's progress to ensure all children make very good progress from what they already know. Develop further the use of data to inform next steps in children's learning.
- Further develop practitioners' questioning approaches. This will help improve further children's play and learning experiences.

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 Glaitness Nursery

| Quality indicators for the primary stages | 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 | |

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the early learning and childcare setting using the quality indicators from [A quality framework for daycare of children, childminding and school-aged childcare](#). The framework supports settings, providers and inspectors to assess 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 early learning and childcare settings are doing. The Care Inspectorate evaluations are also used by local authorities when considering how settings are meeting the national standard for funded early learning and childcare.

The Care Inspectorate's evaluations for the early learning and childcare setting are:

| Detailed evaluations | Evaluation |
|--|------------------|
| Key question 1: How good is our care, play and learning? | good |
| 1.1 Nurturing care and support | very good |
| 1.3 Play and learning | good |
| Key question 2: How good is our setting? | good |
| 2.2 Children experience high quality facilities | good |
| Key question 3: How good is our leadership? | good |
| 3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well | good |
| Key question 4: How good is our staff team? | very good |
| 4.3 Staff deployment | very good |

Requirements made by the Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

Areas for improvement made by Care Inspectorate for the early learning and childcare setting.

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

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Reports page | Inspection reports | 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. Orkney Islands Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its setting.

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HM Inspector

Nicola Creighton
Care Inspector