

8 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Torphins Playgroup. 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.

- Children, who are happy, have fun and make friendships in a safe and homely environment. All children demonstrate kindness and are respectful to their peers in an age appropriate manner.
- The extensive and inviting outdoor space, where children explore, take risks and develop their imagination. The space and resources provide exciting opportunities for children to negotiate different terrains, surfaces and gradients.
- The well-respected manager who creates a welcoming and nurturing environment, alongside the practitioner team who demonstrate respect and kindness to all.

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

- As planned, practitioners should continue to develop and implement their approaches to planning, tracking and assessment. As they develop their approaches, practitioners should focus on developing further their skills in observing and recording observations of significant learning. This will help document children's progress in their learning.
- Practitioners need to develop a curriculum rationale. In doing so, the team need support to consider what their curriculum offer is, capturing fully the uniqueness of their setting.

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 Torphins Playgroup

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Securing children's progress</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale</a>	

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

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page//?id=5004>.

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

Patricia Madden  
HM Inspector