

20 August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Midstocket Playgroup. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the manager and practitioners.

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

- Children who are curious and resilient problem-solvers, who enjoy their interesting experiences at nursery and in their local area very much.
- Highly positive, supportive, and nurturing relationships between parents, practitioners and children. The hardworking team share their passion for outdoor learning with children and families. There is a strong sense of community and belonging.

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

- As planned, develop further approaches for planning, observing and monitoring the progress children make in their learning. Observations should clearly identify children's skills, and fully inform the planning of all spaces, experiences and interactions. Practitioners should ensure all learning experiences and spaces build effectively on what children already know and can do.
- Continue to improve approaches to self-evaluation. The manager should now engage practitioners, parents and children to evaluate and develop further their work.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate 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 Midstocket Playgroup

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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	

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	good
1.3 Play and learning	good
Key question 2: How good is our setting?	adequate
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	adequate
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?	good
4.3 Staff deployment	good

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

As a result of the inspection, no requirements were made.

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

As a result of the inspection, the following areas for improvement have been made.

Area for improvement 1

To support children's play and learning, the manager and staff should ensure the environment is well resourced and inviting for children.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'I am able to access a range of good quality equipment and furnishings to meet my needs, wishes and choices' (HSCS 5.23).

Area for improvement 2

To support children's safety, the provider should ensure a full review is carried out of the setting, identifying where all potential risks and hazards may exist for children, and take appropriate action to address these.

This is to ensure that care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards (HSCS) which state that: 'My environment is safe and secure' (HSCS 5.19).

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

[Midstocket Playgroup | Inspection Report | Education Scotland.](#)

What happens next?

We are confident that the playgroup has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

As a result of the Care Inspectorates findings and evaluations, further scrutiny intervention will be considered to support improvements in the early learning and childcare setting.

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