

20 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Craigneuk Family Learning Centre
Wishaw, North Lanarkshire**

In June 2015, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's early learning and childcare setting. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the setting and North Lanarkshire Council. We returned to the setting to look at how it had continued to improve its work, and published another letter in June 2016. Recently, as you may know, we visited the setting again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the head of centre and practitioners. We heard from the head of centre and other practitioners about the steps the setting has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection and at other aspects of the setting's work, as proposed by the head of centre. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the setting has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found. The Care Inspectorate inspected the setting at the same time and that report will be available at www.careinspectorate.com.

Further improve the quality of learning experiences to ensure children make better progress.

Since the last visit by Education Scotland, the quality of children's learning experiences has improved. The significant changes to the outdoor area have provided more space for all children to explore and investigate the natural environment. Your children were observed to be having fun and using the whole outdoor area well. They particularly enjoy exploring and investigating in the mud and sand areas. We have asked practitioners to consider ways to enable older children to flow freely between the playroom and outdoors. This would enable children to access the outdoor area earlier in the session. Babies and toddlers continue to benefit from the warm, caring relationships with practitioners. The wide range of natural and everyday objects supports them well in their exploratory play. Within the Woodland Room, most children engage well with the interesting learning experiences available. Overall, practitioners provide effective support to children who require additional help to fully engage with activities. They are flexible and responsive to the individual needs of children and now consider children's developmental stages more carefully. Overall, practitioners' skills in observing and recording learning have improved. As a result, observations are more focused on learning and identify children's achievements. Older children continue to be involved in planning their learning. Evidence from observations, 'learning walls' and displays demonstrate that children continue to make progress in their learning. The setting

has identified the need to review and refresh children's profiles to ensure that they demonstrate clearly the progress children are making in their learning, throughout their time at the setting.

Improve the curriculum to meet the learning needs of all children.

The health and wellbeing of your children is very important to practitioners. They are nurturing towards your children and place a strong emphasis on supporting their wellbeing so that they develop essential skills for life and learning. Practitioners have received a high level of support and guidance from the management team and local authority. As a result, children's individual care and learning needs are being met more effectively. Overall, practitioners' knowledge and understanding of curriculum frameworks and national guidance has increased. This has supported improvements in planning for children's learning and development. Children are experiencing greater challenge and depth in their learning through particular contexts, such as 'living things'. The birth of the 'nursery chicks' has brought great excitement for the children. On a daily basis, children observe the development of the chicks and talk confidently about their life cycle and how to care for them. It will be important for practitioners to continue to deepen their knowledge, and develop across the team, a shared understanding of the curriculum and approach to learning and teaching. Planning for children who require additional support with their learning follows North Lanarkshire Council's guidance. Overall, children's individual targets are more specific, relevant and are being reviewed within appropriate timescales to ensure children continue to make progress.

Establish effective and robust self-evaluation to improve the outcomes for children.

The leadership and direction from the head of centre has contributed to the important improvements made since our last visit. The management team have provided very effective support to each other and practitioners. Practitioners now think more carefully about their practice and make the necessary improvements to ensure the setting continually improves. Systems for monitoring, learning and teaching, planning and children's progress are still at early stages and need to develop further. Good progress has been made to introduce appropriate processes to evaluate the work of the setting. Self-evaluation and reflection are becoming important aspects of practice. Overall, the management team, and practitioners are clear about what is working well and what could be better within the setting. Clear plans are in place to ensure continuous improvement. A more in-depth focus on the impact of change is now required to demonstrate more clearly that there are improved outcomes for children and families.

What happens next?

The setting has made important progress in a number of areas since the original inspection. More time is now required to achieve a more permanent team of practitioners. Recently introduced systems for monitoring and evaluating and recording children's progress now need to be embedded. Our Area Lead Officer, will maintain contact with North Lanarkshire Council to monitor progress. We will ask for a report within 15 months. This report will inform any decision made by Education

Scotland regarding continuing engagement. This may include another inspection visit. When such a decision is made, we will write to you again detailing the improvements the setting has made and outlining any further action, agreed with North Lanarkshire Council that we intend to take.

Sandra Kehoe
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.