

21 June 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

**Craigneuk Family Learning Centre
North Lanarkshire Council**

In June 2015, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's setting. Recently, as you may know, we visited the setting again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the manager and staff. We heard from the manager and other staff how the setting has continued to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in April 2015 and at aspects of the setting's work, as proposed by the manager. As a result, we were able to find out how well children are now learning and achieving and how the setting is continuing to support them to do their best. This letter sets out what we found. The Care Inspectorate inspected the setting at the same time and that report is available on www.careinspectorate.com.

How well do children learn and achieve?

The welcoming positive atmosphere and the relationships with staff help children to feel safe and secure within the setting. Most children settle quickly as they arrive. Across the setting, the layout of playrooms has improved. This is now giving children more space and better access to a wider range of resources. All children have the opportunity to play outdoors. As you know, one of the outdoor areas has been out of use for some time. We have asked the local authority and management to ensure the necessary improvements take place so that children can access a larger space for outdoor learning. Babies and toddlers continue to benefit from the wide range of natural materials available. Children in the 'Woodland' room are motivated and enjoying their learning. They engage well with the range of learning experiences available. Children are now concentrating for longer periods of time on their chosen activity. For example, at the creative and construction areas where they make detailed models and structures.

Staff readily consult with children and help them think about what they already know and what they would like to find out more about. The 'woodland wondering wall' displays children's ideas and what they have learned about specific topics. We have discussed with staff how this could be developed further. All children have their own personal learning story folder which records their involvement in learning experiences. In the best examples, it is clear that children are making progress in their learning. A more consistent approach to recording children's learning is now required. As this develops, it will be important to fully involve children and help them to talk about their learning and achievements and plan for what they might learn next.

How well does the setting support children to develop and learn?

Staff continue to show a high level of care for children and their families. Across the setting, playrooms are bright and attractive with a wide range of quality resources to support learning. The amount of natural materials for children to explore and investigate has been increased. The routine of the day has been improved. This is giving children more opportunity to independently make choices about where they want to play. Staff now have more flexibility to positively interact with children as they play. Increasingly, learning experiences for children are better matched to meet their needs. Record keeping and planning for children who require additional help with their learning has improved. This has been a recent development. Management and staff now need to ensure these plans are reviewed regularly to support children to continue to make progress in their development and learning.

Staff have had training to help them build their knowledge and understanding of national guidance. Planning for children's learning is now more effective and built upon children's interests and ideas. Staff are making better use of Curriculum for Excellence to provide a range of learning experiences. This positive start should be built upon to provide opportunities and experiences that will allow children to investigate and learn in more depth.

How well does the setting improve the quality of its work?

As you know, there have been a number of changes within the management and staff team. However, since the last inspection they have worked very hard to plan and deliver the necessary improvements. The management team have been informally evaluating and monitoring the work of the setting. This now needs to be better planned and in greater depth to ensure the setting continues to improve and children make the best possible progress in their learning. Through training and support staff are becoming more knowledgeable and skilled in their practice. When we met with staff, they told us that they are more confident. They are motivated by the many positive changes. There is a real determination to continue to improve. Ongoing support from North Lanarkshire Council and the management team will still be required to help staff to continue to increase their knowledge and develop their practice. It will be important for management to continue to provide the necessary guidance and leadership to ensure the delivery of high quality early learning and childcare.

What happens next?

The setting has made progress in addressing key areas identified from the previous inspection. Changes to the playrooms and routines are giving children more choice and time to make decisions about their play. Overall, the quality of children's experiences has improved. Planning for children's learning continues to develop. Staff are taking better account of children's ideas and national guidance to plan for their learning. There is scope to develop further the curriculum to ensure children continue to make progress and deepen their learning. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the work of the setting now needs to be planned and focused to ensure the setting continues to improve. As a result of significant changes in management and staffing, more time is required to make the necessary

improvements and develop the work of the setting. We have asked North Lanarkshire Council to continue to support the setting. Our Area Lead Officer will maintain contact with the council to monitor progress. Education Scotland will make a return visit within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will then provide a further letter to parents detailing the setting's progress.

Sandra Kehoe
HM Inspector

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/eyc/CraigneukFamilyLearningWishawNorthLanarkshire.asp>

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