

26 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate visited Abbey 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.

- Happy, confident children who enjoy their experiences at Abbey Playgroup and are making good progress in their learning.
- The commitment of the manager and team, who are welcoming and caring in their approach. This supports children to feel safe and secure in their environment.
- Well-planned transitions from home which lead to the individual needs of children being carefully considered. This also supports effective partnership working with parents.
- The playgroup's well-established place in the community which supports strong partnership work. This helps engage children and parents in the life of the wider community.

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

- Continue to use national guidance to develop approaches to self-evaluation. This should have a clear focus on the impact of improvements on children's learning.
- Develop further the current systems for planning, tracking and monitoring individual children's learning to ensure experiences lead to progression in learning across all areas of the curriculum.
- Continue to develop opportunities which allow children to increasingly make decisions and lead their own learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the settings 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 Abbey Playgroup

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Securing children's progress	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	good

Descriptions of the evaluations are available from [How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale](#)

Here are the Care Inspectorate's grading for the setting

Care Inspectorate standards	Grade
Quality of care and support	good
Quality of environment	good
Quality of staffing	good
Quality of management and leadership	good

Requirements/recommendations made by the Care Inspectorate for the setting

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

Recommendations:

- In order to meet children's individual care needs, the manager must ensure that medication paperwork is completed fully, reviewing this regularly in line with best practice guidance. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social

Care Standards which state “My personal plan (sometimes referred to as care plan) is right for me because it sets out how my needs will be met, as well as my wishes and choices.” (HSCS 1.15)

- In order to support children’s choice and ability to direct their own play, the service should re-consider the use of the indoor and outdoor environments throughout the session. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state “As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences, and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity.” (HSCS 2.27)
- The manager should ensure that information is submitted to the Care Inspectorate in line with their registration requirements. This is to ensure care and support is consistent with the Health and Social Care Standards which state “I use a service and organisation that are well led and managed.” (HSCS 4.23)

More detailed Summarised Inspection Findings will be available from <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/angus/5302013> and the [Care Inspectorate website](#).

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

A notification from the Care Inspectorate will be sent to the Provider to complete an action plan to address any requirements and recommendations made as a result of this inspection.

Patricia Madden
HM Inspector

Hillary Brookes
Care Inspector