

12 December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2017, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Sylvester's Nursery. 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.

- Caring practitioners who have developed positive relationships with children and families.
- The commitment of practitioners and the committee to make changes to ensure that children have positive learning experiences and outcomes.

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

- Develop the vision, values and aims in consultation with practitioners, parents, community and children to reflect their values and aspirations for improving outcomes for children.
- Develop self-evaluation practices in order to lead to both improvement in the setting and improved outcomes for children.
- Develop approaches to planning, observing and tracking children's learning to ensure sufficient depth and challenge is offered. This will help children make the very best progress they are capable of.
- Develop further the opportunities for children to be more active in their learning as well as being more proactive in leading their learning. Practitioners should also be encouraged to be leaders in learning.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help early learning and childcare settings, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish early learning and childcare settings are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St Sylvester's Nursery

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|--|-------------|
| Leadership of change | weak |
| Learning, teaching and assessment | weak |
| Securing children's progress | weak |
| Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion | weak |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale | |

More detailed summarised inspection findings will be available from <https://www.education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/moray/5211514>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the setting needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The Moray Council regarding the setting's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the setting within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Moray Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the setting we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the setting has made.

Dr Noreen Phillips
HM Inspector