

15 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kirkhillgait 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.

- The positive relationships between children, practitioners and parents. Practitioners are caring and nurturing in their approach, which helps children to settle well into nursery and feel safe and secure. All children are happy while at nursery.
- Older children are confident when sharing their ideas and experiences with practitioners and other children. They use a wide range of vocabulary to explain their thoughts and ideas.

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

- The manager and practitioners should access professional learning to develop a deeper and shared understanding of how children learn. Practitioners should improve children's experiences in line with their individual stages of development.
- The manager and practitioners should improve the quality of learning spaces. The playrooms need to be more inviting for children and motivate them to be curious in their learning. Children need a wider range of natural and open-ended resources to explore, investigate and develop their imaginative skills.
- Practitioners should continue to develop the quality of their observations, planning for children's learning and how they review and check on children's progress. They should identify relevant next steps for children that enable them to make sustained progress in their learning, as a result of their nursery experience.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the setting's work using quality indicators from [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). Quality indicators help learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Kirkhillgait Nursery

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Securing children's progress	weak
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

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

[Kirkhillgait Nursery | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

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 East Renfrewshire Council regarding the setting's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the setting within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with East Renfrewshire 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.

Sandra Kehoe
HM Inspector