

1. The Inspection

Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre was inspected in October 2010 as part of the integrated inspection programme by the Care Commission and HM Inspectorate of Education. The nursery prepared an improvement plan in agreement with West Dunbartonshire Council. The improvement plan indicated how they would maintain the high quality of provision and develop aspects of the work of the centre. Through this process the centre continued to make improvements. West Dunbartonshire Quality Improvement Service assessed the extent to which the nursery was continuing to improve the quality of its work, and evaluated progress made in responding to the point for action in the original report.

2. Continuous Improvement

The report published in November 2010 noted the 'very effective leadership' of the head of centre. The head of centre was commended for putting children and their families at the heart of the centre's work. The head of centre continued to lead by example and encouraged a strong sense of teamwork amongst her staff. The centre had continued to improve learning and teaching approaches and develop exciting learning opportunities for all children. All staff felt developed and supported and in turn they supported colleagues within and out with the authority through sharing their practice and speaking at local and national conferences. Parents were involved and consulted about centre developments and were fully committed to the improvement agenda within the nursery. The head of centre, team leader and staff team had focussed on the recommendation contained in the report. They had continued to develop the high quality of provision and had further developed the work of the centre. They had made very good progress.

The centre is very well placed to sustain and build on the very effective developments achieved and remain at the forefront of Curriculum for Excellence development.

3. Progress towards the main point for action.

The initial inspection report published in November 2010 agreed the following area for improvement with the centre and education authority: The centre should continue to maintain the high quality of provision and, through the improvement planning process, make further developments to aspects of the work of the centre.

This section evaluates progress made with each of the recommendations and the resulting improvements for children and stakeholders.

3.1 The centre should continue to maintain the high quality of provision and, through the improvement planning process, make further developments to aspects of the work of the centre.

The nursery had made very good progress towards meeting this point for action.

The staff team provided high quality learning experiences which children were enthusiastic about. Staff made very good use of explanations, discussions, dialogue and questioning to encourage children to develop their own ideas and think for themselves. They used praise very effectively to promote children's self esteem and celebrate their efforts and achievements. Children concentrated for long periods of time at their chosen activities, with adults and with other children. Children's literacy skills were exceptionally well developed. For example, children spent time at the writing table writing their own name; one child wrote a shopping list which he was very proud of, another a letter to his friend. Children were highly motivated by a set of wooden mushrooms, which they used to count and measure. Two children demonstrated their problem solving skills, and worked out how the beebots would go up the sloping block, without any adult intervention. A music session using drums and claves developed children's skills in keeping a beat. Staff planned experiences for outdoor learning and children had daily opportunities to extend their learning outdoors. Local visits and outings were used to extend children's interests and learning. For example, one child was designing and making a cannonball run, which was a direct result of a recent visit to *Overtoun House* where he had seen a cannon. Children who attended on a full day basis benefited from being part of various groups to develop their social skills e.g. key worker group, fulltime group, lunch time group, Paths groups. Staff continued to develop their skills in sharing learning intentions and generating success criteria. The vision of the centre was shared widely with parents and staff who were fully involved in forming this vision. The use of ICT was very well imbedded and children independently used the wide variety of resources such as smart board, digital microscope, didgi blue camera, etc very well.

4. Capacity for Improvement

The nursery had made very good progress. The head of centre, team leader and staff team had continued to work together to maintain the high standards and improve the work of the centre. The staff team and head of centre were highly committed to the continuous improvement of the nursery. The head of centre and team leader continued to provide high-quality leadership and was an excellent role model; resulting in motivated and confident staff with high expectations of children's learning. The head of centre and team leader actively promoted distributed leadership, with all staff members having a lead role in developing initiatives within the nursery.

The team leader and staff were highly committed to these responsibilities and worked hard to ensure their input had a positive impact on children's learning. Parents were involved and consulted about centre developments. They were fully committed to the improvement agenda within the centre.

5. Conclusion

Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council Quality Improvement Service had continued to work enthusiastically to meet the recommendation of the HMIE report. Staff had continued to improve the quality of children's learning experiences. All staff had been fully involved in the implementation of the improvement plan and had worked hard to support the head of centre and team leader to undertake the recommendations. The centre was very well placed to continue the improvements achieved to date.

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