

24 August 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

**Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre
West Dunbartonshire Council**

Recently, as you may know, my colleague and I visited and inspected your child's centre. Throughout our visit we talked to many parents and children and we worked closely with the head of centre and staff. We wanted to find out how well children were learning and achieving and how well the centre supported children to do their best. The head of centre shared with us the centre's successes and priorities for improvement. We looked at some particular aspects of the centre's recent work, including literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and technology across learning, and outdoor learning. As a result, we were able to find out how good the centre was at improving children's education.

How well do children learn and achieve?

We are confident that your children learn and achieve extremely well. Children are, enthusiastic and clearly enjoy nursery. They are developing independence very well and confidently make choices in the innovative learning environment, both indoors and outdoors. They show high levels of concentration in their chosen activities, for example when exploring water firstly in the water tray then later outside at 'the stream'. Children are involved in planning their own learning in a variety of interesting ways. They also engage in helpful conversations about their learning which supports them to identify their next steps.

Children are making excellent progress in early language. Their listening and talking skills are very well developed. They talk enthusiastically and in great detail about the baby chicks in the nest in their garden. They display a keen interest in books and enjoy sharing books in different areas throughout the playrooms. They 'mark make' throughout the nursery for relevant purposes, for example when undertaking risk assessments of the outdoor area. Recently, a group of children used their skills very well to write and illustrate their own story book about a superhero. Children have a very good grasp of early mathematics. They are developing an awareness of measure using measuring tapes and scales, and use appropriate mathematical language. Children are developing very effective skills in using literacy and numeracy across their play. In recognition, the centre has received a national award for children's achievements in literacy and numeracy. Almost all children are becoming increasingly skilled in using technology during play, such as the interactive whiteboard and programmable toys. Children are developing problem solving skills when working together to make dens and build an outdoor fire. Children have a very good knowledge about how to care for the environment and living things.

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

We feel the nursery supports your children to develop and learn extremely well. Children are highly motivated and engaged by their experiences. Across the playrooms, staff interact very skillfully with children to support and extend their learning. They use children's interests and ideas to personalise learning which, in turn, involves and motivates all learners. Staff provide an exciting and stimulating environment with a range of activities and resources which meet children's needs. The outdoor area provides a rich, interesting environment which is used very effectively to promote early science skills and develop children's interest in the natural world. Staff use observations of children at play to record progress and identify what children need to do next. Staff ensure that children are given appropriate support and challenge.

They are embracing the curriculum for excellence and use exciting and innovative approaches to help children make excellent progress. Staff work very well with parents and parents report that they are highly satisfied with all aspects of the nursery. Interesting home link initiatives such as science boxes and story sacks support parents to become more involved in their children's learning. Staff work very well with a range of professionals to ensure all children, including those with additional learning needs, make appropriate progress. Very effective transition programmes are in place to support children as they start nursery and move on to primary school. Staff and children from the local primary school visit the nursery throughout the year to build relationships with the younger children. Commendably, the head of centre works closely with the primary staff to develop a common understanding of the early curriculum level and also to share the successful methodology and approaches used in the nursery. Staff have developed an exciting and stimulating outdoor area which is developing children's learning in all areas of the curriculum. Staff make very good use of the local community and visitors to support and enrich children's learning. Plans to develop a learning area at the 'Shore at the Havoc' will further support children's awareness of the natural world.

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

We are confident that the nursery does and will continue to improve the quality of its work. The head of centre and staff team are highly committed to providing the highest quality provision. They are reflective practitioners, who meet daily to evaluate and plan children's learning. Staff consult and take the views of children, parents and visitors to help them provide a high quality service. Professional development opportunities and helpful feedback from the head of centre support staff to continually improve experiences for children. Staff take on lead roles to develop areas of the curriculum. The centre shares its good practice with other establishments both locally and nationally. The head of centre provides inspirational leadership for learning. She motivates all staff to provide excellent experiences for children. The centre is very well placed to continue to improve.

Our inspection of your centre found the following key strengths.

- Confident, well-behaved and motivated children who enjoy high quality learning experiences.
- Partnerships with parents, support agencies and wider community to meet learning needs and broaden children's experiences.
- Exciting and stimulating outdoor learning environment which supports learning across the curriculum.
- Very effective transition programme which support progression in learning across the early level.
- Very effective use of self-evaluation and commitment of all staff to continuous improvement.
- Inspirational and outstanding head of centre's leadership for learning.

I discussed with staff and the education authority how they might continue to improve the centre. This is what I agreed with them.

- Continue to build on the very effective practice and high quality experiences for all learners.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE INSPECTION?

We are very satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the centre's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The local authority will inform parents about the centre's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its centre.

Jackie Maley
Managing Inspector
24 August 2011

Additional inspection evidence, such as details of the quality indicator evaluations, for your school can be found on the HMIE website at
<http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11213&type=1>

You can find our complaints procedure on our website www.hmie.gov.uk. Alternatively you can contact our Complaints Manager at HM Inspectorate of Education, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston, EH54 6GA or by telephoning 01506 600259.