

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 9 September 2009

**Subject: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education: Report on
Gavinburn Early Education and Childcare Centre**

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Members of the inspection of Gavinburn Early Education and Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 26 August 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1** Gavinburn Early Education and Childcare Centre was inspected in June 2009. The centre was inspected by HMIE as part of the integrated inspection programme on behalf of HMIE and the Care Commission. Inspectors focussed on the quality of children's experiences and outcomes, and the success of the centre in improving the quality of education. Inspectors reported six-point scale evaluations of five quality indicators.
- 2.2** The inspection focussed on approaches to improvement through self-evaluation. At the start of the inspection, the head of centre had the opportunity to demonstrate the impact of the centre's self-evaluation in improving its work, along with key supporting evidence particularly in raising achievement. The inspector was interested in how the centre identified its future priorities and direction, founded on how accurately and well it knew itself at the point of inspection. A discussion with the head of centre and key members of staff about self-evaluation, evidence and improvement took place early in the inspection, with the purpose of helping the inspector focus on appropriate activities and consider priorities for the inspection and the necessary extent of the inspection. As well as this professional dialogue, inspection activities also included observation of learning and teaching across the centre in response to their self-evaluation. The focus for this activity was early literacy and early numeracy through play. The inspector also looked at broader curricular areas when observing learning and teaching. Responses to questionnaires issued to all parents and staff were analysed. The inspection report is available at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/> and a copy is attached as an appendix.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Members will note that HM Inspector identified key strengths within the centre, in particular:
- Welcoming and stimulating learning environment.
 - Relationships between staff, parents and children.
 - Confident children who are eager to learn.
 - Partnership with other professionals.

- 3.2** Members will note that in relation to the five indicators of quality two were very good and three were good.
- 3.3** Overall, the inspector found that the children at Gavinburn Early Education and Childcare Centre were very happy, confident and keen to learn. Staff knew the children very well and provided a curriculum which was based on play. The inspector found that the centre had very good links with other professionals who offered specialist help and guidance. They also had very good links with parents. Staff were committed to the ongoing development of the centre and used self-evaluation to identify priorities for improvement.
- 3.4** The following areas for improvement were agreed with the centre and the education authority:
- Improve approaches to assessing and monitoring children's progress in learning.
 - Provide more challenging activities to extend children's learning.
 - Continue to involve all staff in using self-evaluation effectively to improve outcomes for children.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The Action Plan will be funded from the pre-5 service budget.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** An Action Plan will be prepared to take forward the recommendations made in this report.

7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

- 7.1** HM Inspectors will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The centre and the education authority will inform parents about the centre's progress in improving the quality of education. The committee is invited:
- (a) to note the contents of this report; and
 - (b) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Gavinburn Early Education and Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 26 August 2009.

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Appendix: Copy of HMIE report on Gavinburn Early Education
and Childcare Centre

Wards Affected: Ward 6