



Early Years Service Current Developments



Early Level Classes in Argyll and Bute

As part of the Early Years Service plan we have identified the need to evaluate progress within Early Level Class provision.

We have created a self evaluation tool for teams to evaluate progress within their settings and then feed back progress to the Early Years Service. The self evaluation tool has been created using 'Building the Ambition', advice from Education Scotland and the National Care Standards. All Early Level Class providers will be invited to an Early Level Class Self

Evaluation Session on Wednesday 25th February to gain a greater understanding of the tool and to share practice with colleagues from other settings. Staff will also have time on the day to begin their own self evaluation of Early Level Class provision. Following this session, there will be a requirement for managers to return their completed self evaluation to the Early Years Service. This will feed into the whole evaluation of Early Level Classes in Argyll and Bute and will give

us a clear picture to plan for improvement over the following session. A report will also be produced by the end of June 2015 outlining our position as an authority – all information within this report will be anonymous. The Early Level Class self evaluation tool can be found on SALi under Early Years – ELCC. If you are interested in attending the Early Level Class Evaluation Session (location to be confirmed), please contact Sheena Stewart of the Early Years Service –

sheena.stewart@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Remember SSSC Registration!

All Childcare and Education Workers as well as Classroom and ASN Assistants require to be registered with the SSSC - their professional body. This is easy to oversee in the recruitment process, but a legal requirement, so please remember to check!

Early Years Service Contact Us!

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Early Years
Service



Argyll and Bute Early
Years



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Psychology of Parenting Project—PoPP

The Scottish Government have awarded Argyll and Bute additional support for parents of 3 and 4 year old children. This funding facilitates training within two different parenting programmes for practitioners who work with children and families. The 'Incredible Years' and 'Triple P' programmes look at aspects of children's behaviour, learning, social skills and language development.

The aim is to help parents with behaviours they want to change. To do this trained practitioners help parents set their own goals and the group helps each parent to achieve their goals. Each programme is delivered weekly for blocks of 6-8 weeks by two trained practitioners. Each week builds on the learning of the week before, so it's important parents attend every week of the programme.

At present our Lead Childcare and Education Workers and Community Childcare Education Workers are being trained in the 'PPP' programme. They will work in partnership with other agencies to deliver the training in their area. For further information on the 'Psychology of Parenting Programme', please contact Alison MacKenzie—alison.mackenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Developmental Milestone Tool

As you may be aware, the Early Years Service has developed a tool to support progress within developmental milestones for three to five year old children. The tool has incorporated the Children and Young People Act National Practice Guidance – 'Building the Ambition', and is aligned with the Argyll and Bute Assessment Toolkit. The Developmental Milestone Tool is currently being 'tested' using the Early Years Collaborative Model for Improvement. This means that instead of the Service launching the Developmental Milestone Tool authority wide

straight away, we are testing the tool with a small number of settings, making adjustments and testing again with a larger number of settings. At present the tool is being tested in the Kintyre area of Argyll and Bute, with Mid Argyll coming on board next. If you have not yet used the tool, the Early Years Service will be in touch soon to arrange training and allocation of resources for your area. We aim to have every setting ready to come on board with the Developmental Milestone Tool by the end of June 2015.

The rationale for the Developmental Milestone Tool can be on SALi under Early Years – ELCC. For further information on the Developmental Milestone Tool, please contact Kathleen Johnston—kathleen.johnston@argyll-bute.gov.uk



600 Hours Update

The implementation of increased hours of Early Learning and Childcare began in August 2014. Despite a few teething problems, settings have made fantastic progress in embracing the additional hours and staffing – many thanks to you and your teams for all your hard work and commitment. The next element of ELCC within the Children and Young People Act to be implemented is increasing entitlement to two year olds from families who are entitled to free school meals as of August 2015. Where

possible, all two year olds will be placed with either a Partner Provider setting which is registered to take two year olds, or with a childminder. However, there may be areas which do not have any two year old provision, and the two year old will be placed within the local authority Pre5 unit. The Early Years Service will work with the head teacher and staff to ensure the environment is appropriate for two year olds, as well as arrange registration with the Care Inspectorate. At present the Service is developing support materials for under 3 provision using 'Building the

Ambition' and 'Pre-birth – 3'. We are also developing CPD for all staff in relation to working with children who are under 3. The Children and Young People Act also requires authorities to offer increased flexibility of provision. Over this session, we will be consulting you on how we can expand on the model of single sessions we currently provide, with a possible pilot being taken forward within one of our larger settings. If you are interested in being involved in any of these developments, please contact Alison MacKenzie, Principal Officer, Early Years.

'Sharing Practice' Funding

So far 17 settings have accessed funding to enable practitioners to visit other settings both out-with and within Argyll and Bute.

If you are interested in accessing funds to facilitate a visit to another setting to share practice, please contact Kathy Smith: kathy.smith@argyll-bute.gov.uk as soon as possible, as visits need to take place before the end of March 2015.

Argyll and Bute Family Pathway

The Early Years Service has been working in partnership with NHS Highland through the Early Years Collaborative to develop a 'Family Pathway' for Argyll and Bute. At present the Pathway is focusing on children aged pre-birth – 5 and their families. As with the Developmental Milestone Tool, the project is being 'tested' using the Model for Improvement. Essentially the Pathway is concentrating on two key elements:

Improving the quality of care and support for all children and families within the Argyll and Bute Pathway through testing systems and processes at each key stage.

'Building the Ambition' Training

This guidance on early learning and childcare builds upon 'Pre-Birth to Three' and 'Curriculum for Excellence' - early level. It provides detailed, practical guidance on the experiences and interactions necessary to deliver the learning journey at the most important developmental stage for babies, toddlers and young children. 'Building the Ambition' describes best practice in creating caring and nurturing settings that allow wellbeing, communication, curiosity, inquiry and creativity to flourish. The Argyll & Bute Early Years Service will be delivering localised training in 'Building the Ambition' for practitioners over the next few months. All settings should have received a hard copy of this document from the Scottish Government. Building the Ambition can be downloaded at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00458455.pdf>

Improving communication within and across agencies through testing how we communicate and how we share information. At present the Family Pathway is being tested in the Kintyre area, in line with the Developmental Milestone Tool. As part of Early Learning and Childcare, we are testing how information is shared between the named person (usually the Health Visitor) and the Pre5 manager prior to a child starting ELCC.

We will also be testing how information is shared between the Pre5 manager and the head teacher when the child moves into P1 through the Developmental Milestone Tool. This should lead to improved communication processes and more directed support for our children. If you would like further information on the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway, please contact Kathleen Johnston – kathleen.johnston@argyll-bute.gov.uk

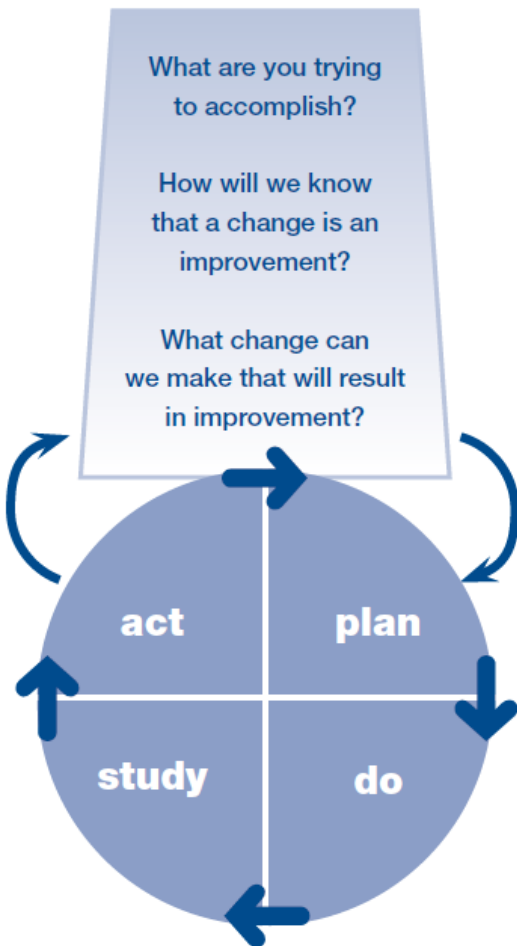
Using the EYC Model for Improvement

The Model for Improvement* is a simple yet powerful tool for accelerating improvement, which has two parts:

- Three fundamental questions, which can be addressed in any order.
- The PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle to test and implement changes.



The PDSA cycle guides the test of a change to determine if the change is an improvement.



Plan, Do, Study, Act

Plan

- List the tasks needed to set up the test of change.
- Predict what will happen when the test is carried out.
- Determine who will run the test.

Do

- Run the test.
- Document what happened when you ran the test.
- Describe problems and observations.

Study

- Describe the measured results and how they compared to predictions.

Act

- Determine what your next PDSA cycle will be based on

Setting Aims

Improvement requires setting aims. The aim should be time-specific and measurable; it should also define the specific population that will be affected.

Establishing Measures

Teams use quantitative measures to determine if a specific change actually leads to an improvement.

Selecting Changes

All improvement requires making changes, but not all changes result in improvement. Organisations therefore must identify the changes that are most likely to result in improvement.

Testing Changes

The Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle is shorthand for testing a change in the real work setting — by planning it, trying it, observing the results, and acting on what is learned. This is the scientific method used for action-oriented learning.

For Further information on the Model for Improvement and available training, please contact Kathleen Johnston — kathleen.johnston@argyll-bute.gov.uk

*The Model for Improvement was developed by Associates in Process Langley GL, Nolan KM, Nolan TW, Norman CL, Provost LP. The Improvement Guide: A Practical Approach to Enhancing Organisational Performance

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/early-years/early-years-collaborative>