



Head Teacher's Message

Families,

I hope this message finds you well. As we step into the vibrant month of April, we are excited for the wonderful learning opportunities and joyful experiences that lie ahead for our nursery children.

First and foremost, I would like to extend our sincere blessings and warm wishes to all families who have recently been observing and celebrating Ramadan, Purim, and Holi. It has been truly special to see the children's curiosity and respect as they learn about these rich and meaningful traditions. Sincere thanks to those of you who were able to attend our first Community Iftar during the month of Ramadan it was a truly special evening of togetherness, generosity and shared understanding, and it was heartwarming to see families come together to break the fast, share food, and celebrate the rich sense of community that makes Hazeldene such a welcoming place for all.

In this month's newsletter we invite you to take a look at our parent-friendly Follow Through Report, which shares the key messages from our recent visit from East Renfrewshire Council. We are incredibly proud of this report, as it truly reflects who we are as a Family Centre and the nurturing, high-quality experiences we provide for our children and families. You can also read about the wonderful excitement across the centre as we welcomed our newly hatched ducklings—an experience that brought curiosity, joy and lots of gentle care from the children. As we come to the end of term, we wish all of our families a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Break, whether you are heading away or simply spending time together at home.



Justin





OUR FAMILY FEEL

- ♥ Warm & Welcoming Atmosphere
- ♥ Strong Bonds: Staff, Children, Families
- ♥ Parent Voice: All Feedback Positive!



BIG ADVENTURES

- 🌿 Forest Kindergarten: Whole Days in Woods!
- 🌿 Outdoor Fun: Garden & Local Woodland
- 🌿 Learning at Lunch: Eating Together Outside



Hazeldene
Family Centre

Good
Progress!



LEADING THE WAY

- ★ Confident & Independent Children
- ★ Shared Leadership: Everyone Decides
- ★ Following Own Ideas



OUR JOURNEY FORWARD

- ⚙️ Floor Books: Children Plan Learning
- ⚙️ Great Spaces: Exciting Indoors & Out
- ⚙️ Smart Paperwork: More Time for Play

Children are happy, safe, and active and enjoy playing with their friends in a variety of spaces.



- **A Warm Welcome:** We've created a "home from home" environment where every child feels nurtured.
- **Our Shared Values:** Our focus remains on 'Kindness' and 'Growth', values we chose together to ensure everyone feels they belong.
- **Your Voice Matters:** We are thrilled that 100% of parents gave positive feedback, describing our care as nurturing and inclusive.
- **Working Hand-in-Hand:** From Home Visits before your child starts, to updates on our online app Seesaw, we are a team in your child's journey.



- **Full-Day Forest Kindergarten:** We have successfully introduced full-day sessions in the local woods, giving children much more time to explore, experiment, and dive deep into their natural surroundings.
- **Dining Under the Trees:** One of the biggest changes is that children now enjoy sociable mealtimes right there in the woods. This means their play and discovery don't have to be interrupted for a walk back to the building for lunch.
- **Daily Discoveries:** Almost every child enthusiastically joins in opportunities to explore our nursery gardens and the local woodland.
- **Curious & Independent:** Playing in the natural world empowers our children to be inquisitive and independent as they learn directly from nature.
- **Managing Risks & Staying Safe:** Our "Big Adventures" aren't just about fun; they help children learn how to manage risks and keep themselves safe while they explore.
- **A "Home from Home" Outdoors:** We have worked hard to make our outdoor spaces feel just as welcoming and high-quality as our indoor rooms, supporting children to be creative and curious wherever they choose to play.

Leading the Way at Hazeldene



Confident & Independent Children

- Our children are happy, safe, and active.
- They are becoming more and more independent every day as they follow their own interests.
- Simple, clear routines help them feel secure enough to try new things and build their confidence.

Everyone is a Leader (Shared Leadership)

- Leadership isn't just for the Senior Leadership Team; it is shared across our whole community—staff, families, and children.
- Our staff feel empowered to bring new ideas to the table to make the Family Centre better.
- Most importantly, everyone's voice is heard and valued when we make decisions.

Children Follow Their Own Ideas

- We use "Floorbooks" (our big scrapbooks) to listen to children's ideas and use them to plan what we learn about next.
- Children have the "agency" (the power) to choose where they want to play and learn throughout the day.
- Our staff are experts at knowing when to step in and help, and when to step back to let a child lead their own discovery.
- We call these "threads of thinking"—where a child's own curiosity leads the way to a new skill or piece of knowledge

Our Journey Forward at Hazeldene

Floorbooks



Planning Our
Adventures Together

Next
Steps



Great Spaces



A Home from Home
to Explore

Smart Paperwork

More Time for Play
& Learning



Floorbooks: Planning Together

- We are using our "Floor Books"—which are like big, shared scrapbooks—to help children lead their own learning.
- Our staff listen to children's ideas and use them to plan what we do next, making sure the children's voices are always heard.
- These books help us see exactly what your child is interested in and how they are progressing across everything they do.

Great Spaces: A Place to Explore

- We have worked hard to make our nursery feel like a "home from home" for our families.
- We will keep looking at our indoor and outdoor play areas to make sure they are exciting and help children be creative.
- Our goal is to continue to have "enabling spaces" that the children can change and adapt themselves as they play.

Smart Paperwork: More Time for Play

- We are finding better, simpler ways to record your child's progress.
- By making our "paperwork" smarter, our staff have more time to spend playing, talking, and learning with your children.
- We will continue to share these learning stories and photos with you on our online app, so you are always part of the journey.

The Great Duckling Hatch-Off

There has been great excitement at Hazeldene this month as we welcomed a clutch of duckling eggs into the nursery. The children have been fascinated by the incubation process, carefully observing the eggs each day and learning about how ducklings grow and develop before they hatch.

Watching the tiny cracks begin to appear in the shells sparked lots of curiosity, questions and conversations among the children.

This experience has provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about life cycles, care for living things and the patience involved in waiting for something special to happen. There were many delighted faces as the first ducklings began to hatch, and the children have been enjoying observing them closely, noticing their soft feathers, wobbly walks and gentle peeping sounds. It has been a joyful and memorable learning experience for everyone - adults and children alike!



The Great Duckling Hatch-Off



Our baby ducklings are now living on a farm in County Durham



They will live indoors while they have their down feathers



They will meet other ducklings who have been to other nurseries - I wonder what adventures they had?



When they are a bit older they can go on an adventure outside - just like us at The Woods!



When the ducklings grow up they lose their down feathers and their juvenile plumage comes in - then they can live outside. This is what our ducklings might look like when they grow up!

Chatting Together

Watch and wait before joining in

I love it when you play alongside me, letting me take the lead.

Watch and wait to see how I choose to play and what I am interested in.

Join in by making a comment or taking a turn. Give me plenty of time to respond.



Scan here to see this idea in action on the BBC CBeebies Parenting website or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/d9ak3ewp>



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba