



Curriculum Rationale

Glenburn Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Our Vision

Every child will have the opportunity to reach their full potential. They will experience fun learning experiences while playing in our safe, nurturing, inclusive environment. Their individual interests will be valued and their rights respected.

Our Aim

Our aim is to provide the highest quality early learning and childcare where children feel loved, respected and valued. Children will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills through thoughtfully planned learning experiences supported by enthusiastic, nurturing educators. Children will have the freedom to play and learn while having fun and developing relationships. They will explore nature and develop an understanding of the world around them.

Our Values

Relationships Kindness Respect

Communication Nurture Non-judgemental Approach

Dignity Inclusion

Our Vision

At Glenburn ELC Centre, we are committed to providing a nurturing, inclusive and inspiring environment where every child is valued, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

Our curriculum is underpinned by the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, enabling children to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens





- Effective contributors

We believe that “Play is the Way” - play is central to how children learn, develop and make sense of the world around them.

Our Pedagogical Framework

Our pedagogical approach is informed by:

- Falkirk Council's 5 Key Principles of Pedagogy
- Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)
- Realising the Ambition: Being Me
- GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child)

At Glenburn, our pedagogy is grounded in:

Nurture

We place strong emphasis on nurturing relationships, recognising that:

- Children learn best when they feel safe, secure, loved, valued and respected
- Emotional wellbeing underpins all learning

Our practitioners:

- Build strong attachments through a key worker approach
- Support children to understand and regulate emotions
- Create a calm, predictable, warm and welcoming environment

Play is the Way

We believe that play is the primary vehicle for learning.

Through high-quality play experiences, children:

- Develop creativity, independence and confidence
- Build language and communication skills
- Explore, investigate and solve problems

We provide open-ended, meaningful and stimulating play opportunities both indoors and outdoors, allowing children to lead their own learning.





Child-Led and Adult-Responsive Planning

At Glenburn, our curriculum is shaped through a dynamic balance of child-led and adult-responsive planning.

Child-Led Learning

We recognise children as:

- Capable learners
- Curious explorers
- Active participants in their learning

Our practitioners:

- Observe children closely
- Listen to their ideas, interests and questions
- Use these to inform planning

This ensures learning is:

- Relevant
- Engaging
- Meaningful

Adult-Responsive Practice

Practitioners play a vital role in extending and deepening learning through:

- Sensitive interactions
- Skilled questioning
- Timely interventions

Adults:

- Respond "in the moment" to children's play
- Scaffold learning and introduce new vocabulary and concepts
- Support progression through carefully considered next steps





This approach ensures a balance between freedom and intentional teaching.

Our Learning Environment

We provide a rich, **enabling environment** that promotes curiosity and exploration.

Indoor and Outdoor Learning

- Continuous access to high-quality indoor and outdoor spaces
- Opportunities for risk-taking, physical development and connection with nature
- Use of natural, open-ended resources to encourage creativity

Our environment supports:

- Independence and choice
- Sustained shared thinking
- Deep engagement in play

Skills for Life and Learning

Our curriculum supports the development of essential skills for life, including:

- Communication and language
- Early literacy and numeracy
- Health and wellbeing
- Social and emotional development
- Problem-solving and critical thinking

These skills are developed holistically through play and real-life contexts.

Inclusion and Equity

At Glenburn ELC Centre, we are committed to:

- Ensuring equity for all children
- Supporting children with additional support needs
- Closing the poverty-related attainment gap

We work closely with partners to ensure every child:



- Feels included
- Is supported appropriately
- Can thrive and succeed



Partnerships with Families

We recognise that parents and carers are children's first educators.

We build strong partnerships by:

- Sharing learning regularly
- Encouraging family involvement
- Valuing parental knowledge and contributions

This partnership strengthens outcomes for children and enhances their learning experiences.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment at Glenburn is:

- Ongoing and observational
- Based on children's play and interactions

Practitioners:

- Track progress and development
- Identify next steps
- Plan meaningful learning experiences

This ensures continuity, progression and individualised support.

Continuous Improvement

We are committed to ongoing reflection and improvement.

We achieve this through:

- Robust and relevant Improvement Planning using Agile Leadership Approaches
- Professional learning and development





- Self-evaluation using the Quality Improvement Framework (Education Scotland & Care Inspectorate)
- Listening to the voices of children, families and staff

This ensures our curriculum remains:

- Responsive
- High quality
- Aligned with best practice

Closing Statement

At Glenburn Early Learning and Childcare Centre, our curriculum is built on nurture, play and responsive pedagogy. Through our belief that "Play is the Way," and our commitment to child-led and adult-responsive learning, we create an environment where every child is empowered to thrive, develop, have fun, feel safe, valued, loved and included.

