

Larkfield Children's Centre Learning at Home Policy



Rationale:

In December 2020 the First Minister announced that Early Learning and Childcare Settings should provide remote learning from January 2021. This policy sets out to share expectations and establish a collective understanding of what learning at home means for our ELC community for this period of closure and/or further closures.

Aim:

This remote learning policy aims to:

- Set out the expectations for all members of our ELC community with regards to learning at home.
- Ensure consistency in the approach to learning at home for children that supports continuity of learning.
- Establish how we will implement and quality assure our learning at home offer,
- Provide clarity as to how our ELC's approach to learning at home links to guidelines from both the council and Education Scotland.

What is learning at home (remote learning)?

*'Remote learning is learning that is **directed** by practitioners and **undertaken** by children and young people who are not physically with the practitioner while instruction is taking place.'*

Education Scotland January 2021

What will learning at home (remote learning) look like for learners?

"Learners should not engage in online learning for the entirety of the school day. Learning may include activities such as research tasks, project work, practical opportunities, discussions and other activities that can be carried out away from a digital device."

Educations Scotland January 21

Learning at Home should continue to be based on the pedagogy of play and offer a range of opportunities that can be undertaken both indoors and out. It should reflect the curriculum offer that would be available within the setting.

In Larkfield Children's Centre ELC learners can expect:

- Home Learning ideas and themed activities linked to all areas of the curriculum will be sent out daily through twitter.
- Home Learning packs which contain a variety of curriculum themed play experiences, including materials and resources, will be delivered to homes fortnightly (flexible).
- A series of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing themed ideas, virtual activities and links through the use of Sway videos will be sent out to parents through email and twitter.
- Staff will participate through creating videos to engage with children through storytelling on a regular basis, shared on Twitter.

- Key worker Check in telephone calls to support family and children’s wellbeing as well as engagement with home learning. This will be carried out fortnightly, logged and any concerns raised will be highlighted to SMT (flexible).
- Wellbeing Wednesday activities and experiences supporting and nurturing relationships with children and families. Links to source additional support can be found online and within the community, through social media and email.

What is the role of parents?

“Parents and carers want the very best for their children. It is important to stress that, in a period of remote learning (learning at home), parents and carers are not expected to be teachers (ELC Practitioners) and we understand that many will be juggling work and childcare.”

Education Scotland January 2021

- Parents are encouraged to actively engage with and support their child’s learning at home by accessing the learning packs which will be delivered to their home and through daily and weekly activities and experiences on twitter, email and group call.
- Parents should continue to promote independence skills and daily routines and play a supportive role in their child’s learning journey.
- Parental participation and engagement through celebrating achievements from home through LCC twitter page.
- Parents can access any additional support regarding home learning when and if required through contacting the centre.
- Communicating with Keyworker through check in calls fortnightly or as required.
- Links are shared on virtual platforms and by email signposting where support can be found, nationally and locally.
- Parents will have regular opportunities to provide feedback to keyworkers and staff on their child’s learning and wellbeing.
- Questionnaires sent to all parents to take part in, to enable the centre to collate data on remote learning offer.

What is the role of staff?

‘Class teacher (ELC Practitioner) retains responsibility for planning and organising children’s and young people’s learning, with learning supported by parents and carers’

Education Scotland January 2021

- Practitioners will be responsible for engaging and contributing to the content of home learning for children, ensuring high quality learning experiences through play.
- Practitioners will have a commitment to work in the centre to support children and provide care and learning in the setting. Ensuring continuous support and nurturing relationships with our families.
- Keyworkers to have contact with parents through drop off and pick-ups where possible, adhering to safety measures (Covid-19).
- Practitioners will update care and learning plans with any information shared and updated by the parent from phone calls which may be relevant.
- Practitioners will monitor engagement with home learning resources and packs.
- Support staff will have a commitment to work in the centre to provide support and care in the setting and contribute to providing home learning ideas, activities and experiences.
- Keyworkers will communicate with parents through fortnightly check in calls to support the child with their remote learning.
- Practitioners will engage in professional learning at home, including courses and professional reading to enhance learning and professional development to ensure they are providing a high quality service. This will be recorded and evaluated to ensure it has a positive impact on practice.

How will we encourage engagement?

It is important that we track families' engagement in learning at home to identify families who may need additional support to access the learning at home provision. As well as this tracking engagement in learning at home this will be a key function of our safeguarding responsibilities to children as well as supporting family well-being.

- Through regular contact with parents by keyworkers, SMT and the family support worker, attendance data is updated should a child be unwell and unable to access remote learning.
- Engagement will be tracked through data provided by parents through check in phone calls and tailored by keyworker and parent to meet the needs of the individual child if required.
- A home Learning questionnaire sent to all parents to monitor the effectiveness and usefulness of the home learning on offer.
- A physical resource pack will be offered to all parents to support those who cannot access resources online.
- Practitioners will promote the use of social platforms to celebrate learning engagement at home.

How will we ensure quality?

- Reviewing the feedback from parents and staff we will self- evaluate the home learning on offer to ensure it meets the needs of all children and families attending the centre. This will highlight any improvements and changes to be implemented by all staff.
- Practitioners will continue to explore a variety of ways to engage parents and children to support play, learning and wellbeing.

- Remote learning offer will be evaluated in our Annual Standards and Quality Report and in the strategic planning.
- The setting will engage with Inverclyde Council's Audit tools and the ELC team to ensure remote learning offer is of the highest quality.

Further reading / related documents:

- Inverclyde's Remote Learning Guidance, January 2021
- Inverclyde digital safeguarding guidance, revised January 2021
- [Education Scotland Remote Learning](#)
- Maximising Engagement during lockdown – Inverclyde Attainment Challenge 2021
- [Learning at Home](#) – Parentzone Scotland resources
- [Read, Write, Count](#) - a national initiative which aims to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Scotland's children.
- [PlayTalkRead](#) - encourages parents and families to include easy and fun reading, writing and counting activities in their everyday lives.