



Rainbow Family Centre Learning at Home Policy (ELC)

Rainbow Family Centre envisions a remote learning offer that will support the learning and development of all our children through developmentally appropriate play experiences which support learning across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Our staff will work collaboratively to ensure that learning experiences within the Centre, safely, reflect home learning activities.

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 the Rainbow Family Centre 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 Rainbow Family Centre'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 will continue to be based on the pedagogy of play and offer a range of opportunities that can be undertaken both indoors and out. We will ensure that our home learning offer reflects the experiences provided within Rainbow Family Centre.

In Rainbow Family Centre, learners can expect:

- A curriculum which supports and enables children's own learning through play-based approaches across a range of experiences. We will ensure that our curriculum continues to place a strong emphasis on learning across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.
- Home learning packs which make effective use of virtual and physical resources to support children's learning and enhance their experiences.

January 2021

- That we will make effective use of virtual platforms, including YouTube, to provide learning experiences and recorded content. This content will consist of stories, yoga sessions, online cooking classes and Bookbug sessions. We will use our Twitter and Facebook pages to signpost parents to our recorded content as well as other sources of information, advice and learning experiences e.g. Parent Club Scotland, information from Inverclyde Council.
- A variety of play-based learning experiences which can be undertaken indoors and outdoors. We will make sure that our experiences continue to provide opportunities for children to develop skills.
- Their wellbeing will continue to be at the heart of our practice. Our staff will carry out weekly check-ins which will enable us to maintain effective relationships with our families and provide appropriate support should the need arise.
- Practitioners will use the weekly check-ins to identify and support children's individual learning needs which includes ensuring that care and learning plans are updated.
- Practitioners will continue to make use of learning journals to record, and monitor, children's learning.

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

Rainbow Family Centre will support parents through this period of remote learning by:

- Ensuring that our communication channels provide information on where to access activities and experiences. Our communication channels include parents Twitter and Facebook groups, Online Learning Journals and YouTube.
- Encouraging parents to make use of Groupcall and Learning Journals to communicate with staff and share children's learning at home.
- Carrying out weekly check-in phone calls to maintain communication with parents and offer support if required.
- Ensuring the wellbeing of all our families through the continued use of initiatives such as Parklea Branching Out "food-share" and surplus food provided by Belville Community Gardens to distribute food to families.
- Regularly reviewing our home learning offer, in collaboration with parents, through questionnaires and monitoring engagement with our online platforms including Learning Journals.

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

Our work plan has been developed to ensure that we maintain the safety of staff and children, by adhering to Scottish Government guidance, whilst ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities during this period of remote learning.

- The senior leadership team have created two cohorts of staff who alternate between working in the building, to carry out essential duties, and working from home. Staff may be required to come into the building to cover staff sickness or isolation.
- The working plan has been arranged in such a way that, there is a safe balance between staff providing learning within the nursery enabling others to prepare home learning activities for the following week and carry out weekly check-in phone calls.

- Early years support assistants will work with practitioners to develop home learning packs for children who require additional support for learning. They will also support learning within the nursery.
- To support engagement in professional learning, we will make use of our nursery Glow group to share professional learning opportunities with all staff. We also support staff who have difficulty accessing online content.
- Staff have a responsibility to record the professional learning that they undertake and consider the impact that this will have on their practice.

How will we encourage engagement in the remote learning offer?

Rainbow Family Centre understands the importance of tracking families' engagement in remote learning in enabling us to identify families who need additional support to access learning at home. Our arrangements for tracking engagement, will enable us to monitor the wellbeing of children and their families and offer support when required.

- To encourage engagement, we will ensure that our remote learning offer provides quality learning opportunities while being manageable for parents who may also be working from home or undertaking remote learning with older children.
- Senior leadership team will monitor parental engagement with learning journals which provide clear, measurable data which will help us to identify the need to adapt our offer if required.
- Weekly conversations with parents will enable us to monitor participation and offer support and reassurance.
- We will encourage parents to inform the Centre if their child is unwell and therefore, unable to participate in learning experiences at home.

How will we ensure quality?

- We will adopt a collaborative approach to ensuring quality, giving staff and parents the opportunity to share their views.
- We will make use of questionnaires to gather feedback from staff, and parents. We will use this to evaluate the impact of our home learning offer and adapt our processes to ensure our offer provides appropriate experiences that supports children's learning and the wellbeing of children and their families.
- Commentary on learning at home within the annual Standards and Quality Report
- We will continue to engage with Education Services team through focused meetings about learning at home.