

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."

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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 Wellpark Children's Centre ELC learners can expect:

- Home learning Ideas linked to all curriculum areas which will be sent out by email several times a week
- Play at home packs which will contain a variety of curriculum themed play experiences – available fortnightly
- A series of literacy, numeracy and wellbeing themed videos to support parents to develop skills at home
- A series of online themed ideas and activities using SWAY and THINGLINK.
- Weekly check in phone calls, these may be fortnightly at parents request.

- Weekly video updates from your child’s keyworker on learning journals containing ideas and check ins.
- Regular communication with your child’s keyworker on Learning Journals
- Wellbeing Wednesday – Wellbeing ideas for parents which are emailed weekly with signposting to mental health services.
- Signposting to support agencies such as Barnardo’s If required.

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.”

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- Parents can gain support through regular contact with the setting by phone, Groupcall APP and email should they require it.
- Regular communication is made through the following channels – Twitter, email, Learning Journals and our Groupcall APP.
- Parents can find all learning videos, ideas and contact details on our website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/wellparkchildrenscentre/> under the COVID 19 section.
- Promotion of National supports will also be regularly provided such as Parentclub.
- Parents should continue to support their child’s learning at home :
 - through regular routine
 - promotion of independence skills
 - regular access to outdoors and exercise
 - A focus on play, fun and enjoyment
- We recognise the difficulty parents can have trying to manage work, their own mental health, lockdown and supporting children at home. We promote play at home as the best strategy for learning with a focus on nurture, relationships, and wellbeing.
- Our learning offer will be reviewed regularly using questionnaires and verbal feedback given during our check in phone calls.

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’

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- Practitioners in the setting will be engaging with parents through Learning Journals and phone calls.
- Practitioners will create content which promotes the curriculum through play. They will make weekly videos for their key group.
- All ELC practitioners will have a commitment to work in the hub providing essential childcare.
- Practitioners will update care plans with any information they receive from Learning Journals and phone calls which may be relevant.

- Practitioners will engage in various professional learning at home which will ensure they are providing a high-quality service. This will be recorded and evaluated to ensure it has an impact on the service.

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.

- Parents are contacted regularly, and attendance data is updated should a child be unwell and unable to access remote learning.
- Engagement will be tracked through the data collected on Learning Journals as well as verbal feedback provided by parents during check in phone calls.
- Parents who are struggling to engage online will be offered physical resources which may be helpful.
- Parents will be signposted to Barnardo's, health services and other agencies who may be able to support their needs.

How will we ensure quality?

- Ensuring that our remote learning offer and our service is providing the same high quality support will be our primary concern.
- The service will regularly review the offer using questionnaires, feedback from parents and the use of the data collected as mentioned above, we will self-evaluate to ensure that the offer of remote learning meets everyone's needs and is appropriate. This will be carried out by the Senior Leadership team, practitioners, and where appropriate parents.
- Our remote learning offer will be evaluated in our Annual Standards & Quality Report and will be a priority in our Strategic Planning.
- The setting will engage with Inverclyde Council's Audit tools and the ELC team to ensure the 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.