



STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2024

This report will inform you our progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2024-2025. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Head of Centre - Julie MacDonald

OUR CENTRE

Lochfield Early Learning and Childcare Centre is a new purpose-built establishment. We opened in May 2021 to children and families of the Lochfield community. The environment is designed based on the Froebelian approach. Family and community were of central importance to Froebel, a value that we share within our service where, "family and community are at the heart of education". One of his key insights was recognising the importance of children leading their own learning through their own play. The indoor / outdoor space allows children to do this and to move freely. Children and families are at the heart of everything we do at Lochfield ELCC and connecting with all children, families and community is important to us.



Vision, Values and Aims

Our Vision - is to provide a nurturing, safe and fun learning environment where children are supported to reach their full potential. We strive to inspire, challenge, and ensure the best outcomes for all children and families.

Our Values - which underpin this are included, trust, equality, curiosity, and play.

Our Aims - to provide a welcoming, nurturing, and inclusive environment for all children and families within the community allowing all to feel comfortable, safe, and secure.

To enable children to become confident individuals and effective contributors by putting their well-being at the heart of everything we do. By building positive relationships and through observation we endeavour to ensure all children are happy, healthy and we will collaborate effectively with other agencies when required.

To build strong relationships with our families while connecting with those in our local and wider community.

To provide children with rich, purposeful learning experiences allowing them the freedom, time and space to explore their interests to enable the children to become successful life-long learners.

To have a high-quality, passionate, skilled workforce working together to provide an extensive curriculum delivered through a range of strategies to enhance children's knowledge and skills.

We will be working to establish our identity along with our vision, values and aims as we become an established centre. We will be working all together to develop these.



SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Within Lochfield ELCC we have built a service that demonstrates and reflects positive working relationships with everyone in our establishment. All staff, children and families feel, included, valued, safe and secure. Our strong agreed philosophy, vision, values and aims are fully embedded in our daily practice.

Relationships, amongst all are a real strength of the establishment. We have a positive, nurturing ethos between staff, children, and families. All staff treat children with respect and listen to all children's views. Within the environment all children are encouraged to follow our rights and responsibilities. These are linked to Rights Respecting Schools Programme and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Partnership working, parental involvement and engagement are a high priority for Lochfield. We have a robust Induction programme, which is the start of us building up relationships with families. Families are fully involved in the life of the centre, through their own individual children, attending and taking part in many events we hold and those of the parents committee. All staff know children and families well and we value the positive connections we make.

Parent Comment on what we do well – “The efforts the staff go to to get to know the children and tailor the learning needs. The variety of experiences open to the children, from cooking on the fire pit, growing their own food and baking. Parents are very included and involved with the nursery in general and our children's learning”.

Children learn through play, and it is evident that staff value the importance of play. All staff have an excellent sound knowledge of early learning pedagogy and use this very well to fully support all children. The environment is well-planned both indoors and outdoors to allow children space to explore both through play.

Parent Comment – “The setting goes above and beyond to make sure children have the best early experiences possible. Nothing is too much trouble.” A good balance of planned and spontaneous experiences encourage children to express their own views and develop their independence.

After our recent Care Inspectorate inspection where we received five gradings of very goods across all quality indicators, we were asked to be part of the new Space to Grow and Thrive document. This is a document to support the delivery of high-quality physical environments. Children have daily access to outdoors. The environment is well planned to support children's play and learning. There are many experiences available and is used well to further develop a range of physical, enquiry and co-operation skills.

Parent Comment – “My daughter loves to tell me all about the different corner there is to play in and the outdoor space is very special.”

HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR CENTRE?

Leadership

- Our shared vision, values and aims are now embedded and reflect the aspirations of children, families, and staff.
- All practitioners have leadership roles and are very enthusiastic when carry these roles out. These include leading implementation of Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA), Forest Schools and our Parents Committee.
- The strong senior leadership team value and support staff to continue to develop their knowledge and skills, this promotes a culture of continuous professional learning, respect and inclusion.
- Senior leaders and staff understanding of the relationship between self-evaluation and the establishment's continuous improvement is very strong.

Workforce Professionalism

- Practitioners are very confident and knowledgeable within their role. They all work collaboratively together, where they are skilled, dedicated and keen to further improve.
- Practitioners know children and families well and they value the connections they have made. They have high aspirations for all children and families.
- Practitioners have taken part in the Local Learning Community. This is an opportunity to come together with other early years establishments to plan and evaluate learning together.

Parental Engagement

- Effective partnerships with parents and continuous improvement drives us to ensure we are getting it right for all children and families at Lochfield ELCC.
- Strong partnerships with families and our local community have enhanced children's learning and we have built up invaluable links.
- Parental engagement through home link has been a real strength. Opportunities to promote healthy eating through our recipes have been very popular with the nursery providing all the ingredients.

Assessment of Children's Progress

- All practitioners and senior leaders know children very well as learners.
- Floorbooks, individual profiles and tracking is documentation we use which captures children's learning clearly demonstrating progress in all areas. High-quality observations support the identification of next steps and future learning opportunities.
- Data is gathered from the Progression Tool which informs support, challenge for children and supports further development of the environment.

Establishment Improvement

- Priorities within the establishment improvement plan and the evidence we have gathered has positively impacted on aspects of the service for children and families – particularly engaging parents in all aspects of children’s learning.
- Continuing along our RNRA journey, we have received our Jade award and are awaiting the results of our Ruby award.
- We ensure we create a culture of respect and inclusion, treating all children within our service as an individual.

Performance Information

- Evaluating our service using tools such as ‘How good is our early learning and childcare’ and ‘A quality framework for day-care of children, childminding and school-aged childcare’ has been a key resource for us to ensure we evaluate our performance and ensure continuous improvement.
- Children are making very good progress, this is gathered through the learning pathways we have in place along with data gathered through the progression tool, which is analysed to ensure we are performing to a high standard.
- Continuous improvement drives the establishment and getting it right for all children and families is at the forefront of what we do.



Key Strengths of the Centre

- A strong leadership team that values the views of staff, children, and families. This promotes a culture of respect and inclusion.
- A shared vision values and aims reflects the aspiration of children and families within Lochfield ELCC.
- High quality learning environments both indoors and outdoors provides children with opportunities to explore, be curious and develop their skills in problem solving.
- Respectful interactions, where staff support children to feel valued and respected resulting in all children being happy.
- Practitioners' carryout high-quality observations which are used to record progress in learning for all children.
- Creative thinking on how feedback is sought from parents on children's learning.

Our Next Steps – Priorities for 2024-25

We believe that we have made very good progress during session 2023-24 and we will use the improvement priorities listed below to build on this progress moving forward.

- Reflect on our learning environment and zones to ensure it always provides consistent high-quality opportunities, linking to data collected.
- Work alongside our Educational Psychologist to embed Renfrewshire's Nurture Relationships Approach (RNRA) – identifying our third principle.
- Continue to build on parental engagement and involvement, extending to build on local community links to fully support and enhance children's learning.
- Continue to enhance practitioner's professionalism through ongoing training, collegiate and mentor support.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Please take the opportunity to share your thoughts with us as we use feedback to help us make improvements to the establishment. You can do this by speaking to staff, participating in parent/carer meetings, responding to questionnaires/surveys and by completing evaluations at events.

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