

22 August 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

**Spateston Pre-Five Centre  
Renfrewshire Council**

Recently, as you may know, my colleague and I visited and inspected your child's pre-school centre. During our visit, we talked to parents and children and we worked closely with the head of centre and staff. We wanted to find out how well children are learning and achieving and how well the pre-school centre supports children to do their best. The head of centre shared with us the pre-school centre's successes and priorities for improvement. We looked at some particular aspects of the pre-school centre's recent work, including transition arrangements, planning with and for children, e-profiling and consultation. As a result, we were able to find out how good the pre-school centre is at improving children's education.

**How well do children learn and achieve?**

Children are learning and achieving very well. They are very happy and have fun in the nursery. Children are highly motivated and engaged by their experiences. They use mind maps to plan what they would like to learn and make choices in their learning when choosing activities and materials. Children are polite, welcome visitors to the nursery and behave considerately towards each other. They play well together and are good at taking turns and sharing resources. Children contribute very well to caring for the environment by recycling, reducing energy and developing the centre grounds for growing fruit and vegetables. Children's achievements have been recognised with the award of a third Eco-School Scotland green flag. They know how to keep themselves healthy. They can explain clearly why exercise and healthy eating is important. Children are developing confidence through their involvement in improving the work of the centre. For example, they are able to describe their involvement in recruiting new staff members and deciding the venue for the end of term outing. They are developing a sound understanding of the needs of the local community through their involvement in the Government consultation on the development of the area. They know how their fundraising for World Vision has helped to support individual children in Africa.

Children are making very good progress in early language and mathematical skills. They confidently express their ideas and listen very well to adults and to one another. Children are very interested in books and enjoy listening to and sharing stories with each other. They talk enthusiastically about their favourite books and they enjoy predicting what might happen next in a story. Most children can

recognise their own name in print and a few recognise the names of their friends when sorting name badges. Children are developing the key skills of writing well. Children count confidently through their play activities and some are able to carry out simple addition and subtraction sums. They enjoy using their mathematical skills when helping with group registration and when counting votes. Children are able to sort by shape and colour and many can identify 2D shapes and 3D objects.

### **How well does the pre-school centre support children to develop and learn?**

The centre supports your children to develop and learn extremely well. Staff are enthusiastic and create a positive atmosphere in the centre. They are very skilled in the way they discuss learning with children and use questions which encourage them to think and reflect. Staff use mind maps very well to capture children's interests and ideas and to personalise learning. They use home visits very effectively to get to know children and their families. As a result of these visits they are able to build on prior learning and, where necessary, provide focused support as soon as a child starts at the centre. They use observations of children at play to record progress and identify effectively what children need to do next. Staff plan activities which build on children's interests and help them enjoy their nursery experience. They are very good at recognising when children need extra help in their learning and work very effectively with other professionals to offer appropriate support. Staff have appropriate plans in place for children who require additional support, and progress is regularly discussed with parents.

Staff work very well together to take account of Curriculum for Excellence. They have created stimulating play areas which offer a broad range of relevant learning experiences. They have worked alongside children, parents and members of the community to develop an attractive outdoor area to enhance children's investigative and physical skills. Staff use information and communications technology very well to help children to learn and develop a range of skills. The manager and staff have worked successfully with local schools in order to improve the transition from the centre to P1.

### **How well does the pre-school centre improve the quality of its work?**

We are confident that the centre is improving the quality of its work. Staff work very well together to provide the highest quality provision. They are reflective practitioners and regularly evaluate their work. They take very good account of children's responses to experiences and activities and use the information to plan future learning. Staff are creative in finding a range of ways to take account of the views of children, parents and professionals. These views are taken into account in a systematic and planned way to help improve the work of the nursery. Staff are encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities and they enthusiastically take on leadership roles to develop the work of the centre. The centre manager has a clear vision for the service and is highly committed to using self-evaluation to improve the work of the centre.

Our inspection of your pre-school centre found the following key strengths.

- Leadership of improvement through the very effective use of consultation to inform self-evaluation.
- Commitment of staff to their professional development and working together for the ongoing development of the service.
- The use of home visits to ensure continuity in learning and appropriate support for children moving into the centre.
- Opportunities for parents to be involved in the life and work of the centre.
- The ways in which staff work with parents and other professionals to meet the needs of all children.

We discussed with staff and the education authority how they might continue to improve the pre-school centre. This is what we agreed with them.

- Maintain the high quality of support for children and their families.

### **What happens at the end of the inspection?**

We are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the pre-school centre's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The head of centre and local authority will inform parents about the pre-school centre's progress as part of the arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of the pre-school centre.

Jacqueline Horsburgh  
HM Inspector

Additional inspection evidence, such as details of the quality indicator evaluations, for your pre-school centre can be found on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/eyc/Spates-tonPreFiveCentreJohnstoneRenfrewshire.asp>

Please contact us if you want to know how to get the report in a different format, for example, in a translation. You can contact us at [enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us at BMCT, Education Scotland, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

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