



Learning at Sandwich ELC

At Sandwich ELC we strive to provide a safe, welcoming and engaging environment that positively impacts all of our children. Children at Sandwich ELC experience high quality learning environments that include high quality resources and interactions. We welcome and encourage involvement from children, parents/carers and partnership agencies.

How Learning is Planned

Rationale

We plan to meet the needs of all children.

This is informed and supported by:

- our observations of children's play
- responsive and intentional planning
- prior learning and next steps
- professional dialogue and self evaluation
- purposeful documentation
- dialogue with parents and families

Documentation

Our Scottish curriculum (Curriculum for Excellence) guides our planning to ensure children experience various play-based activities, that promote a range of interests and skills in a play-based setting.



Realising the Ambition: Being Me, is Scotland's national guidance for early years. It supports us to nurture wellbeing, confidence and a sense of self through positive, nurturing relationships and play-based learning.



Whilst reflecting on these key documents, we plan in three distinct ways which are detailed below.

Continuous Provision

Continuous provision is a well organised environment where resources are accessible all day, every day allowing children to learn independently through child-initiated play. These have been planned to promote learning and skills in specific areas but also to encourage creativity and use of their imagination. Having continued access to these resources promotes continuity, confidence and independence.



Responsive Planning

We scaffold conversations and provide resources based on observations of play and children's next steps. When we are being responsive to children's needs and interests, we promote new learning and the development of skills.

We encourage parents/carers to inform of us when there are significant changes or achievements in a child's life at home to help us bridge the gap between ELC and family life. Photos from home are always welcome to help us do this.

Intentional Planning

To ensure there is a wide variety of learning experiences on offer, we plan rich areas of play and investigation. We build on seasonal and current community/global events to help children make sense of the world around them and their place within it.

We welcome visitors into the setting to share their skills and experiences.



How Learning is Recorded

Purposeful Documentation-Planning Sheets

We use planning sheets to record our responsive and intentional planning and demonstrate the learning journey within our setting from week to week. Regular staff engagement with this documentation promotes progression and depth of learning within the setting. They are accessible to children and staff during the week so that they can include the children's voice, drawings, photos and reflections. The sheets are then displayed on our planning wall for parents to also see.



Learning Stories

Learning stories are a reflection of your child's learning journey in the ELC and beyond. They are a working document that is updated regularly with photos, comments and descriptions of significant moments of play, exploration and achievement. We value family connections with the ELC and encourage families to take these home regularly. Staff will include any photos sent from home to help children make connections between home and the setting.



Tracking Progress and Achievement

To ensure planning is developmentally appropriate and challenging, we use Curriculum Trackers and Developmental Overviews to ensure each child is supported at a pace that's right for them. The trackers have been developed in line with a Curriculum for Excellence and the Developmental Overviews have been developed by the Shetland Islands Council.

Communication with Parents & Carers

We recognise not all parents and carers can come into our setting regularly, so we use a closed Facebook Group to share photos and comments of play and learning within the setting on a weekly basis. Further information sharing is available on the Sandwich ELC Glow Blog.

Scan the QR code for our Glow Blog

