

In partnership with:



## Kilbarchan Community Nursery scio



## STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

June 2022

This report will inform you of the establishment's progress and achievements in the last session and let you know about our plans for 2022-2023. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

**Mairi McLean**  
Nursery Manager

## OUR NURSERY

Kilbarchan Community Nursery is based within the grounds of Kilbarchan Primary School and is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The nursery is in partnership with Renfrewshire Council to provide funded early learning and Childcare places during term-time for children from 3 years, as well as an out of school care service. The nursery is managed by a board of elected trustees from parents and carers of children using our service. The trustees employ a fully qualified staff team to deliver the service.

## OUR VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

### The aims of Kilbarchan Community Nursery are to:

- Provide a flexible, high quality early learning and childcare service to meet the needs of children and their families
- Create a secure, stimulating, happy and healthy environment, which encourages individuals to reach their full potential
- Promote children's independence, social skills and learning for life through free play and directed activities
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which takes account of local and national guidelines and is responsive to children's needs, development and interests
- Develop positive partnerships with families and the surrounding community to support children's development and learning
- Recognise the value of families' input and encourage them to share in their children's learning
- Promote a welcoming and positive ethos of equality, fairness and inclusion, which respects and values all children and adults

## SUCSESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This session has continued to be challenging as we have reinstated as close to normal service while continuing to adhere to the mitigations in relation to managing covid. However, despite these challenges, progress was made of which we are very proud.

- ★ The staff team worked together to reinstate the building as one quality early learning and childcare environment, managing space effectively to offer quality learning experiences.
- ★ We hired a maintenance officer who has worked tirelessly to improve our outdoor learning space. This included fully refurbishing a wooden playhouse, which was donated to us in very poor condition.
- ★ We were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place by Tesco shoppers, receiving a £1,000 grant from Tesco Groundwork U.K. towards developing our outdoor space.
- ★ Children have been well supported to reach their full potential through targeted support and challenge groups. This has been particularly important when addressing the impact of covid restrictions on learning and development outcomes for some.
- ★ We continued to engage parents and carers through the use of email and virtual meetings.
- ★ Our practitioners continued to upskill and engage in additional professional learning opportunities, and we are very proud of their achievements. See below.
- ★ Victoria (Senior Early Years Practitioner) completed her degree in Childhood Practice and successfully applied for the vacant Depute position starting in August 2023.
- ★ Chloe (Early Years Practitioner) completed the third year of her degree and has also embarked on the Froebel in childhood practice course available to us through Renfrewshire Council with a view to enhancing our provision in line with Froebelian principles. Chloe successfully applied for the vacant Senior Early Years Practitioner position starting in August.
- ★ Sara (Financial Administrator) completed an N.C. in Accounts and Bookkeeping.
- ★ We promoted the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Programme with the aim of having all children enrolled.
- ★ The children learned to line dance to Dolly's music and took part in a sponsored event to raise money to engage visiting music and dance instructors.
- ★ Fundraising events raised almost £3,000 to support the nursery purchase resources.
- ★ We also supported other charities (Action for Children, Breast Cancer Research, and Children in Need) through events and bucket donations.

## HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE BEEN IN IMPROVING OUR NURSERY?

### Leadership

Our dedicated and motivated staff team have continued to take on leadership roles within and out with the nursery. Dorothy continued to chair the Locality Inclusion Support Network who work together to identify strategies for supporting children with additional support needs. Janice continued to lead on Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach, working with Educational Psychologists and delivering training for staff on nurture strategies. Victoria engaged with the new transition documentation and supported practitioners to complete it for children transitioning to school.

### Workforce Professionalism

All of our practitioners are dedicated to their continuous professional development, and some have engaged in further qualifications. Victoria completed her B.A. in childhood practice and Chloe completed third year of the B.A. Chloe is also working on an additional qualification in relation to early years practice and has also completed a course on identifying and responding to additional support needs. Both Victoria and Chloe have secured promoted posts within the service. Sarah, our financial administrator, is considering embarking on an HNC in accounts after completing the NC.

### Parental Engagement

Parental engagement opportunities have been limited over the last two years. However, we have been able to offer parents the opportunity to come in for stay and play sessions during this last term and were able to have face to face parent/ keyworker meetings in May. We had two welcome evenings in June for parents of children due to start with us next session. The board of trustees have been creative in organising fundraising events virtually. Members of the trustee management team have been involved in recruiting new staff for the new session and have also engaged with practitioners to carry out end of year reviews. The session was rounded off with a summer trip to the Heads of Ayr farm park for children, parents, and staff. This was very much enjoyed by all.

"Love the new newsletter."

Communication is: "Brilliant and they listen !" (Parent feedback May 2022)

### Assessment of Children's Progress

All our children have continued to progress well in their learning and development and 26 children will transfer to primary school in August as confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens, and effective contributors. New assessment documentation has been introduced and will support practitioners to effectively monitor and assess children's learning, ensuring that they are well supported to real their full potential.

### Establishment Improvement

During 2021/22 we successfully re-established the nursery as one, blending the bubbles from 20 /21 and using the recently extended and refurbished setting to offer a range of quality experiences for all children together. We continued to adhere to Covid 19 mitigations, ensuring the health and safety of our children and staff.

The staff team were given opportunities to engage with new quality framework documentation from the Care Inspectorate and are now familiar with their revised inspection requirements.

Planning procedures were reviewed and now fully include children's input along with robust observations from practitioners on children's interests, skills and stages of development and learning.

### Performance Information

Our priority over the past year has been to keep the children and staff safe during the current pandemic and support families as best we can under the restrictions. Feedback gathered throughout the year from parents and external professionals was extremely positive. All children have continued to progress well in their learning and children requiring additional support were identified early and supported effectively to reach their full potential.

The staff team have continued to provide a high-quality early learning and childcare experiences for children and their families throughout. Adapted communication methods were well embedded, ensuring continued effective communication between keyworkers and parents.

"All staff have made themselves very approachable despite limitations due to the pandemic. Keyworker, in particular, has been a pleasure to correspond with, quickly responding to email queries regarding our child.

Emails to check in and get well soon cards during a couple of hospital stays were really appreciated."

(Parent feedback May 2022)

## KEY STRENGTHS

- ★ Nurturing children and keeping them safe during the pandemic while continuing to offer quality early learning and childcare experiences.
- ★ Communication with and targeted support for families.
- ★ Supporting staff as a team and individually as required, throughout the year to ensure their wellbeing.
- ★ Motivated staff who are ambitious are encouraged and supported to access further training opportunities and qualifications.

## OUR NEXT STEPS – PRIORITIES FOR 2022-23

**Improvement Priority 1: Improving Literacy Outcomes for Children:** New documentation gathering performance data highlighted a slight gap between children's literacy achievements compared to maths and health and wellbeing. We plan to focus on closing this gap while accessing a range of literacy training opportunities, which will be available to staff during 2022/23.

**Improvement Priority 2: Revised Monitoring and Tracking Procedures to Promote Children's Care and Learning:** New assessment documentation rolled out by Renfrewshire Council will be fully embedded. Our current tracking records will be revised to reflect the milestones from this document. We have also revised children's personal plans to ensure that information gathered fully represents the individual child, ensuring their personal needs are planned for. These will be rolled out during next session and will be monitored for effectiveness.

**Improvement Priority 3: To Develop High Quality Learning Experiences in Food Education:** We plan to expand our food learning opportunities through planting an orchard in the area in front of the nursery. This area has been recently transferred to our ownership. We plan to work together with the primary school and Kilbarchan Smile to develop the orchard and aim to involve parents. We plan to further extend this project by providing opportunities for parents to come into nursery to cook with their child. We also plan to produce cook at home bags, which can be sent home with ingredients and recipes for parents and children to cook together. This will allow working parents, who can't engage during nursery hours, to be involved in the project.

We will also continue to embed the following priorities from the previous two years:

**Fully Implement Renfrewshire Council's Early Protective Messages Policy and Practice (EPM):** This is a health and wellbeing policy being rolled out by Renfrewshire Council to give children the skills and knowledge to allow them to communicate their views and feelings effectively. Support for practitioners to fully implement this priority was stopped during the pandemic and is due to be reintroduced next session.

**Consolidate the Implementation of Renfrewshire's Nurturing Relationships Approach:** Work towards the Jade award for this priority by continuing to develop nurturing spaces within the environment and build on our nurturing strategies.

Full details of Kilbarchan Community Nursery's improvement priorities and actions are detailed on the establishment improvement plan. This is available on the website.

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### HAVE YOUR SAY!

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