
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	24 January 2012
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Safer Communities	Report No:	EDUC/02/12/AH
Contact Officer:	Albert Henderson	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	HMIe report on Newark Nursery School		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee of an Education Scotland report on Newark Nursery School.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Newark Nursery School has received a good report from Education Scotland. The report will be produced on 18 January 2012. Members should note that the indicators of quality reflect well on the nursery with two indicators of quality evaluated as 'very good' and three as 'good'.
- 2.2 From August 2011, inspections are focused on the school's/centre's capacity to improve and answer the following questions. The use of the following quality indicators support evaluations on the school's/centre's work and provide information on how the school/centre can improve.

How well do young people learn and achieve

- 1.1 Improvements in performance
- 2.1 Learners' experiences

How well does the school support young people to develop and learn?

- 5.1 Curriculum
- 5.3 Meeting learning needs

How well does the school improve the quality of its work?

- 5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation

- 2.3 The new inspection process provides parents with the report in letter format. The letter:
 - directly answers the three key questions;
 - provides strengths and aspects for development; and
 - provides an overall statement about the quality of provision.

The letter will normally be published on the Education Scotland website within eight working weeks after the end of the inspection. It will include a link to other evidence from the inspection such as pre-questionnaire findings, attainment information and Education Scotland's evaluations of the five quality indicators. Schools will also be sent a small number of paper copies of the letter and evaluations for those parents who do not have online access.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee approve the report on Newark Nursery School.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director Education & Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Newark Nursery School was inspected by Education Scotland in November 2011. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the centre at all stages, identified key strengths and main points for action using the following six-point scale:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 6 | - | Excellent – excellent |
| 5 | - | Very Good – major strengths |
| 4 | - | Good – important strengths with some areas for improvement |
| 3 | - | Satisfactory – strengths just outweigh weaknesses |
| 2 | - | Weak – important weaknesses |
| 1 | - | Unsatisfactory – major weaknesses |

4.2 Education Scotland assessed and reported on the views of parents, pupils and staff, the quality of learning in teaching, how well the nursery school was raising achievement for all pupils, achievement in national examinations, the nursery school's processes for self-evaluation and innovation, the nursery school's capacity for improvement.

4.3 The report will be published on 18 January 2012. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members and the Convener and Vice-Convener for Education & Lifelong Learning.

4.4 Newark Nursery School is inspected under the evaluation framework "The Child at the Centre 2".

4.5 In assessing the indicators of quality, Education Scotland found two aspects of the work of the Nursery School to be 'very good' and three to be 'good'.

4.6 The report lists four particular strengths of the nursery school:

- Children's very good progress in literacy and numeracy
- Caring staff who provide a supportive and welcoming environment for children and families
- The commitment of the headteacher and staff team to meet the needs of all children
- Positive partnerships with parents, outside agencies and local primary schools

4.7 The reports lists three areas for improvement:

- Improve children's ability to engage in dialogue about, and deepen their understanding of, their learning
- Continue to develop the curriculum, including developing appropriate assessment and tracking systems, to ensure all children are making progress
- Refine self-evaluation procedures and ensure the improvement plan is central to driving forward improvements in the nursery

Education Scotland
Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way,
Livingston EH54 6GA

t 01506 600370 f 01506 600313 e hmiii@hmie.gsi.gov.uk

**Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba**

18 January 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

**Newark Nursery School
Inverclyde Council**

Recently, as you may know, my colleague and I visited and inspected your child's pre-school centre. Throughout our visit, we talked to parents and children and we worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We wanted to find out how well children were learning and achieving and how well the pre-school centre supported children to do their best. The headteacher 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 children's ability to talk about their learning, the role of the teacher in supporting children's learning, staff interaction with children to support and challenge them and support for children with additional needs. As a result, we were able to find out how good the pre-school centre was at improving children's education. I would now like to tell you what we found.

How well do children learn and achieve?

We are confident that your children learn and achieve well. Children enjoy coming to nursery. They are relaxed and confident in their playroom and when travelling around the school environment. They are making friends with one another and with children from P1. Almost all children are motivated and enthusiastic about their learning. They particularly enjoy role-play in the house area and using the parachute to develop physical and mathematical skills. Children confidently make choices during their play. They select from a wide range of activities and quality resources. They are beginning to talk more about their learning and are now ready to be involved even further by staff in evaluating and planning their own learning.

Children are learning about their rights and have completed their own Right Wee Blether books to let Scotland's Commissioner for children and young people know their thoughts. They are developing their social skills well and use good manners during group snack time. Children enjoy experimenting with a variety of paint and collage materials to express their ideas. A few older children produce very good figure paintings which show increased form and detail. Children's literacy and numeracy skills are developing very well across the curriculum. Children have very good listening and talking skills. They use these particularly well during focused group time activities. Older children recognise that words have meaning and identify what signs say around the school as they travel to the gym hall. Almost all children attempt to write letters and symbols which they can talk about. A few children write simple words by themselves and enjoy the challenge of copying adults' writing. Children count regularly using a variety of games and resources available in the playroom. A few are beginning to add numbers together to find the total. Children use mathematical language well at the sand and water trays when investigating containers of different sizes. They recognise basic shapes and use simple charts to display information they have collected.

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

We are confident that the nursery supports your children to develop and learn well. Staff are developing confidence in using Curriculum for Excellence to help plan for children's learning. They ensure a broad and balanced range of learning opportunities is provided across the curriculum. They provide activities and resources which are well matched to almost all children's needs. Staff plan very good opportunities for children to apply their literacy and numeracy skills in real life situations. Your children's health and wellbeing is accepted as everyone's responsibility in the nursery. Children are very well cared for and supported by the staff team. Your children have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills using a variety of physical toys and apparatus, both outdoors and in the gym hall. Staff now need to develop the outdoor area as a challenging learning environment to support children's learning across all curricular areas. Staff use their observations of children at play effectively to track and record their progress. They are well placed to continue this work on assessing children's progress and ensuring their development in line with Curriculum for Excellence guidance.

Staff provide you with a high level of ongoing, formal and informal support, including parent meetings, open days and workshop sessions. They also make themselves available to chat with you at the start and end of each session and offer advice where they can. Staff provide you with regular written progress reports on your child's learning throughout the year. They develop support plans and work well alongside parents and partner agencies to set appropriate targets for children with additional support needs. They act upon the advice of specialist staff and meet the needs of children with additional support needs very well. Staff have worked hard to build good links with primary schools in the local area to help children make successful transitions to P1.

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

We are confident that the nursery is improving the quality of its work. The headteacher and staff team have successfully created a welcoming and caring ethos within the nursery. They have established very strong partnerships with agencies and parents and take account of their suggestions to improve nursery practice. The whole staff team demonstrates a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of the nursery. They meet with the headteacher on a weekly basis to discuss children's progress, aspects of provision and whole-school events. All staff take responsibility for evaluating their planning and aspects of the playroom. They now need to develop their skills further to ensure evaluations are based firmly on evidence. The headteacher has a calendar of monitoring activities which covers a broad range of nursery life. There is scope to align these activities more closely with the key initiatives and priorities in the nursery improvement plan to reinforce the impact on children's learning and achievements. The headteacher has identified quality training for staff to develop initiatives within the nursery. She is keen to implement local authority advice on the staff professional review and development system. This will ensure training continues to focus on staff needs and leads to ongoing improvements in children's experiences.

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

- Children's very good progress in literacy and numeracy.
- Caring staff who provide a supportive and welcoming environment for children and families.
- The leadership of the headteacher, and her own and staff's determination to ensure that the needs of all children are met.
- Positive partnerships with parents, outside agencies and local primary schools.

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.

- Improve children's ability further to engage in dialogue about, and deepen their understanding of, their learning.
- Continue to develop the curriculum, including assessment, to ensure all children are making progress.
- Refine self-evaluation procedures and ensure the improvement plan is central to driving forward improvements in the nursery.

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 headteacher 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.

Juliet Colquhoun
Managing Inspector
18 January 2012

Additional inspection evidence, such as details of the quality indicator evaluations, for your school can be found on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11977&type=1>.

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 or write to us at BMCT, Education Scotland, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact 01506 600200, or write to us at the above address or e-mail: feedback@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Quality indicators help pre-school centres, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the pre-school centre. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *Child at the Centre(2)*¹. Following our inspection of each pre-school centre, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish pre-school centres are doing.

Here are the evaluations for Newark Nursery School

Children's experiences	good
Improvements in performance	very good
Meeting learning needs	very good

We also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the pre-school centre

The curriculum	good
Improvement through self-evaluation	good

At the last inspection that was conducted by the Care Inspectorate (Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland, SCSWIS), there was one recommendation. This recommendation has since been addressed.

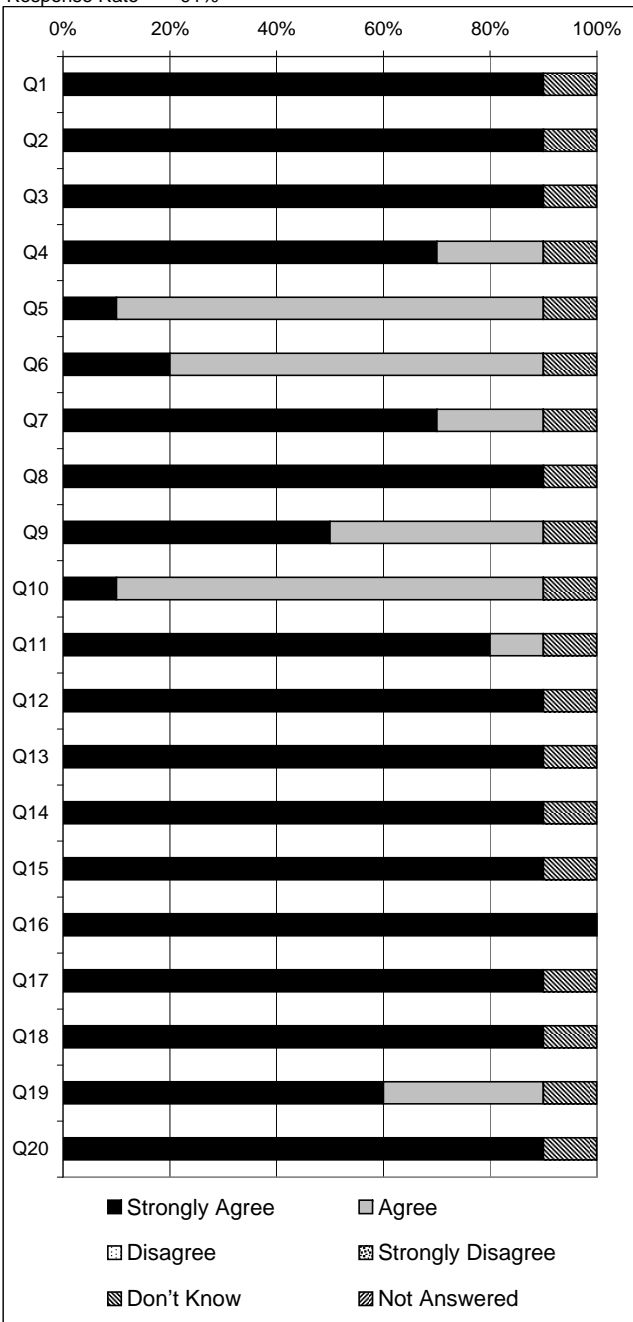
A copy of the full letter is available on the Education Scotland website www.educationscotland.gov.uk or by clicking this link <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/ViewEstablishment.aspx?id=11977&type=1>.

¹ *The Child at the Centre, Self-Evaluation in the early years*, HM Inspectorate of Education, 2007, <http://www.hmie.gov.uk/Publications.aspx>.

A sample of parents, children and young people, and all members of staff were invited to give their views of the school using a pre-inspection questionnaire. Their views informed the inspection process, including the nature of discussions in a number of meetings. Strengths and issues identified were explored by the inspection team, and the findings are included in the inspection report. The following information gives the statistical detail from those that returned questionnaires.

Nursery Staff Questionnaire Summary

Centre Name Newark Nursery School
 SEED Number 8643415
 Quest. Issued 11
 Quest. Input 10
 Response Rate 91%

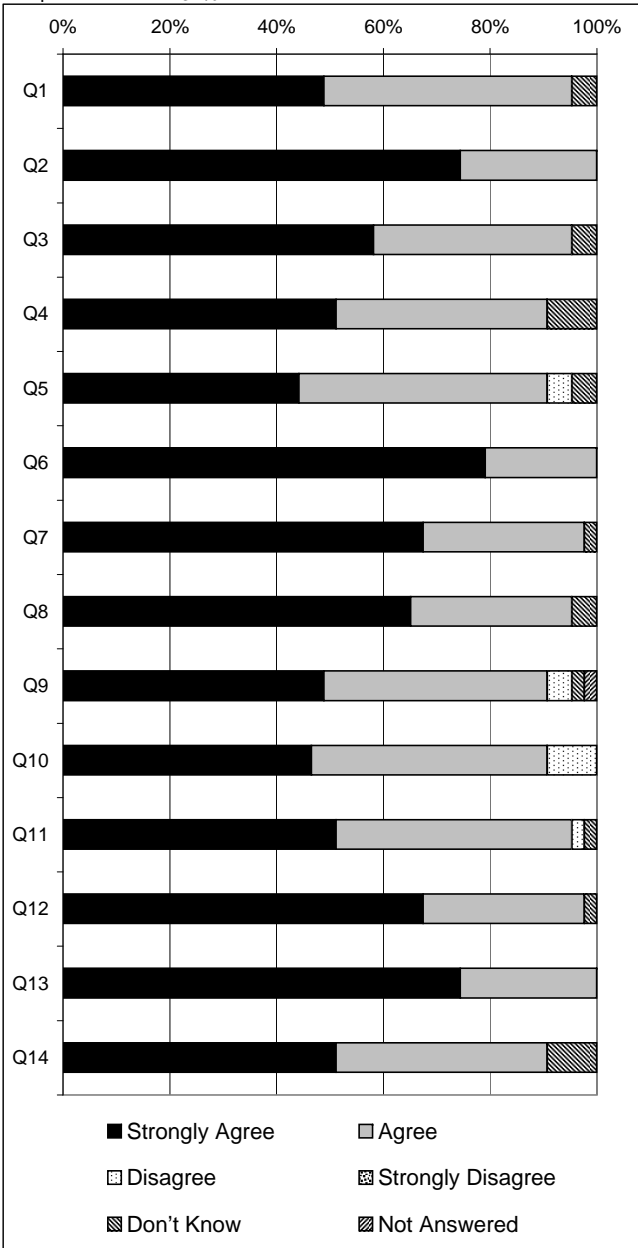


		Percentage %							
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered	Strongly Agree & Agree	Disagree & Strongly Disagree
Q1	Staff discuss regularly how to improve the achievement of all children.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q2	Staff provide activities which meet the learning needs of all children.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q3	Children are involved in talking about what they will learn.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q4	Staff give children regular feedback and encouragement on their learning.	70%	20%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q5	Children have opportunities to evaluate their own and other children's work.	10%	80%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q6	Staff regularly ask for children's views on how play activities can be improved.	20%	70%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q7	Children are motivated and engaged in their learning.	70%	20%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q8	Staff treat all children equally.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q9	Staff and children respect each other.	50%	40%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q10	The children are well behaved.	10%	80%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q11	Support for children with additional support needs, including behaviour problems, is effective.	80%	10%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q12	Parents are fully involved in the nursery and their children's learning.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q13	I have been actively involved in developing the nursery's vision and values.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q14	I am actively involved in setting priorities for improving the nursery.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q15	I have regular opportunities to help shape the curriculum and children's experiences by having discussions with staff and working groups.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q16	I am aware of the nursery's procedures relating to child protection.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Q17	Leadership at all levels is effective.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q18	Staff communicate effectively with each other.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q19	I have good opportunities to take part in continuing professional development.	60%	30%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%
Q20	Staff across the nursery share good practice.	90%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	90%	0%

Note: Will not always sum to 100% due to rounding

Nursery Parent Questionnaire Summary

Centre Name Newark Nursery School
 SEED Number 8643415
 Quest. Issued 140
 Quest. Input 43
 Response Rate 31%



		Percentage %							
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Not Answered	Strongly Agree & Agree	Disagree & Strongly Disagree
Q1	The nursery helps my child to be more confident.	49%	47%	0%	0%	5%	0%	95%	0%
Q2	My child enjoys the learning experiences at the nursery.	74%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Q3	My child's learning is progressing well.	58%	37%	0%	0%	5%	0%	95%	0%
Q4	My child finds most learning activities stimulating and challenging.	51%	40%	0%	0%	9%	0%	91%	0%
Q5	The nursery keeps me well informed about my child's progress.	44%	47%	5%	0%	5%	0%	91%	5%
Q6	My child feels safe in the nursery.	79%	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Q7	My child is treated fairly in the nursery.	67%	30%	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%	0%
Q8	I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support him or her well.	65%	30%	0%	0%	5%	0%	95%	0%
Q9	Staff work in partnership with me to care for and educate my child.	49%	42%	5%	0%	2%	2%	91%	5%
Q10	The nursery asks for my views.	47%	44%	9%	0%	0%	0%	91%	9%
Q11	The nursery takes my views into account.	51%	44%	2%	0%	2%	0%	95%	2%
Q12	The nursery is well led.	67%	30%	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%	0%
Q13	Overall, I am happy with the care and education my child gets in the nursery.	74%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Q14	The nursery has good arrangements for children starting nursery, moving between stages and starting school.	51%	40%	0%	0%	9%	0%	91%	0%

Note: Will not always sum to 100% due to rounding