Follow-through report

Stonelaw Pre-school

23 August 2012
Background

Stonelaw Pre-school was inspected by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) in April 2011. Following the publication of the report in June 2011, the manager and staff prepared an action plan to address the main recommendations of the report.

The nursery is part of the Stonelaw Learning Community and the Quality Link Officer reviewed progress on the action plan and submitted an evaluation of the nursery’s response to the HMIe inspection report.

HMIe require that a follow through report is completed a year after the initial report and this is the responsibility of South Lanarkshire Council, Education Resources. The following provides a summary of the progress made by the nursery in addressing the main points for action included within the inspection report.

Continuous improvement

Since the initial inspection, the nursery has continued to improve its effectiveness in a number of ways. These include:

• Transition arrangements for children transferring to primary school have been strengthened. Effective partnerships with link primary schools have been further developed. As a result schools have more relevant information on the children who will be coming from the nursery and the children are better prepared and more confident when starting school.

• The nursery has continued its work in developing the outdoor area with a successful bid for a grant to assist in this. This has involved working in partnership with parents and other community groups to achieve their goals. The children have a variety of enriched opportunities to be involved in ECO projects and learn about their environment.

• The nursery now has internet access which allows them to enhance children’s learning through its use in researching topics as well as using learning sites for interactive learning opportunities. The nursery also intends to use this resource to provide further communication opportunities with parents.

Main points for action

The following offers a brief account of the progress made by the school and the authority in addressing the main action points of the report.

• Improve communication with parents and involve them more fully in their child’s learning

The nursery has made good progress in addressing this main point for action.

The nursery has put in place a communication strategy to inform parents of what’s happening in the nursery and how their children are learning and progressing in their learning.

Along with the monthly newsletter a separate Parents Committee newsletter gives information on fundraising events and projects parents can become involved in such as clearing up the nursery garden after winter or becoming involved in the playroom with the children. Daily information is also available on what the children are doing and learning in nursery. Parents are invited to comment and give suggestions through the newsletters and on a daily basis when bringing or collecting their children.
More regular meetings, both formal and informal, are held with parents to discuss their child’s progress and encourage them to look at and comment on the nursery floor books which give an insight into what the children have been learning.

A staff and parent workshop was held to raise awareness of Curriculum for Excellence providing a good foundation for further similar events to share information about the curriculum and how the nursery plans for children’s learning.

- **Further improve approaches to meeting learning needs to ensure all children are challenged.**

**The nursery has made good progress in addressing this main point for action.**

Staff are increasingly using a range of methods to evaluate and gather information on children’s progress, including direct observation and listening to children as well as photographs and pieces of work. Individual journey books have continued to be developed to collate evidence to be used to track children’s progress and ensure the effectiveness of planning for their learning and the provision of the appropriate level of challenge.

The nursery has continued to develop its links with various agencies and services to support all children in their learning and was successful in gaining a grant for specialist equipment and materials to further support children with additional support needs.

- **Continue to take forward curriculum developments and develop more opportunities for children to take more responsibility for their own learning.**

**The nursery has made good progress in addressing this main point for action**

Ongoing training has further developed staff’s understanding of Curriculum for Excellence and this is now reflected in their planning processes. Children are consulted about their learning and staff now plan for the playroom daily in order to respond to children’s interests and needs and provide them with more choice.

Staff plan specific activities with children and use their discussions, observations and assessment to identify next steps and plan for individual learning.

The well developed outdoor area provides a wealth of opportunities for children to explore and investigate and be responsible for their own learning.

- **Make self-evaluation more rigorous to improve the quality of children’s learning.**

**The nursery has made good progress in addressing this main point for action**

Parents are invited to comment on the quality of the provision through the monthly newsletter and periodic questionnaires. Children’s views are taken into account in evaluating the provision and their learning e.g. talking about what they like or don’t like in nursery and looking through and evaluating the floor books.

An annual quality calendar is now in place which details for the manager and staff a programme of self-evaluation and monitoring activities throughout the year with a focus on learning and teaching.
Conclusion

Overall, Stonelaw Pre-school and the education authority have made good progress in meeting the main points for action identified in the original report.

Education Resources will not provide any further report in connection with the original HMIE report of June 2011, but will continue to monitor and support procedures within the school as part of its commitment to ensuring the highest quality of education for all pupils.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 01698 454450
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