2 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Scallywags Children's Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the manager and staff.

The early learning and childcare (ELC) setting was inspected as part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- The personalised, nurturing and supportive approach of the team. Staff know individual children and their families well. Positive trusting relationships are clearly evident between children, staff and families.
- The use of the local community to provide a wide range of motivating real-life learning experiences across a wide range of curricular areas. Children are confident, engaged and enthusiastic learners.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from Angus Council.

- Staff should continue to develop approaches to high-quality learning and teaching to ensure all learning experiences provide appropriate levels of challenge for all children.
- As planned, the manager needs to continue to work with stakeholders to develop further the curriculum rationale.
- Staff are ready to develop further their approaches to identifying and responding to children's next steps in learning. This could help staff to ensure all children make the very best progress in their learning.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the ELC's work using three quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. As this inspection is part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors, these quality indicators have not been graded.

Quality indicators for the nursery class
Curriculum
Learning, teaching and assessment
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: Scallywags Children's Nursery | Inspection Report | Education Scotland

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Angus Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Margaret Paterson
HM Inspector

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