12 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Calderbank Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager and practitioners.

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

- Children who are happy, confident and independent in their nursery environment. As a result, they engage enthusiastically in their learning and make very good progress.
- Respectful relationships between staff, children and parents. This leads to all children and families being fully included and valued.
- The owner and staff team who create a warm, nurturing environment for children and parents. They have a strong focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for all children, including those that require additional support with learning.

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

- As planned, staff should continue to support children to lead their own learning. This will enable children to know themselves better as learners and understand what they need to learn next.
- Staff should continue to review the indoor and outdoor environments. In particular, staff should focus on giving all children more opportunities to develop their literacy, numeracy and mathematics skills.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some of the setting's work using three quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. Quality indicators help early learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish early learning and childcare settings are doing.

Here are HMIE's evaluations for Calderbank Nursery

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Curriculum	**very good**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	**very good**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at:
Calderbank Nursery | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

What happens next?

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

Patricia Madden
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

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