

15 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Stornoway Childcare Centre. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the manager and staff.

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

- The positive, respectful and nurturing relationships between staff and children. Children settle well and are confident and comfortable in their nursery environment.
- Children explore the wide range of experiences both indoors and outdoors enthusiastically. These experiences encourage children to be curious, creative and investigate using all their senses.
- The success of the Gaelic (Learner) Pathway (Crùinn Còmhla le Ionad Cùram-chloinne Steòrnabhaigh) created by the manager and practitioners. Children and staff learn Gaelic together through play, songs, rhymes and daily phrases. This very effective practice is being shared across the local authority.
- The very good progress children make in their learning that is relevant to their individual stages of development.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

- As planned, continue to develop approaches to planning for children's learning to focus more on children's developing skills.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the setting's work using quality indicators from [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#). Quality indicators help learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Stornoway Childcare Centre

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

[Stornoway Childcare Centre | Inspection Report | Education 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. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Sandra Kehoe
HM Inspector