2 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dean Park Nursery. 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.

- Children are motivated and independent. They make very positive choices about what interests them and engage enthusiastically in their play. Children love to share their ideas and collaborate with their friends.
- Senior leaders and practitioners enjoy very nurturing relationships with children. They work very closely as a team and are attentive to children's care and wellbeing needs. Practitioners work hard to take account of children's interests throughout their day. This helps children feel valued and have fun.
- Parents value the very positive relationships they have with senior leaders and practitioners. They feel very well informed about their child's wellbeing and progress.

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

- Senior leaders and practitioners should continue to improve approaches to assessing children's learning and tracking their progress. They would benefit from streamlining their processes to ensure they are clearer about the progress children make over time.
- With the support of senior leaders, practitioners should improve further the effectiveness of their interactions with children. They should continue to use national guidance to develop the learning spaces and experiences. This will help to ensure children receive the right levels of challenge in their learning and development.

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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 Dean Park Nursery

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Securing children's progress	**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: Dean Park Nursery | 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. Dean Park Nursery will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress.

Shona ES Taylor
HM Inspector

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