23 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited The Owl and Pussycat 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.

- The stimulating, high-quality learning environment and the motivating open-ended resources that support high levels of engagement. Children are developing their curiosity and imagination skills very well and are highly motivated by the rich learning experiences on offer.
- The embedded 'family' ethos which is evident across the nursery. Relationships between staff, children and families are very strong and are a central part of the work of the nursery. Children are confident as they learn within a safe and secure setting.
- The high-quality interactions between staff and children that extend learning and deepen thinking. Children are highly engaged in their learning for sustained periods of time.
- The very effective approach to planning for children's learning. Staff involve children very well in this process through the use of floorbooks. As a result, children ask questions, contribute their ideas and evaluate their learning.

The following area for improvement was identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from North Ayrshire Council.

- As planned, staff should continue to explore further their approaches to digital learning. They have rightly identified the need to increase a wider range of technologies to enrich the curriculum and support children's learning.


© Crown Copyright

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 The Owl and Pussycat Nursery

| Quality indicators for the nursery class | Evaluation |
|---|---|
| **Curriculum** | **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: Owl and Pussycat Nursery, The | 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. North Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Morag Steele
HM Inspector

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


© Crown Copyright