21 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Nursery Times by the River. 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.

- Leadership of the manager in implementing robust systems to identify, plan for and support the wellbeing of all children and families. Parents are actively involved in setting and regularly reviewing appropriate, specific targets for children who need additional support.
- A team who work well together to support children to feel secure, happy and settled. They are respectful and caring in all interactions with children and families. This creates a nurturing and inclusive ethos.
- Staff who make appropriate use of natural and open-ended materials to motivate and engage children to learn using their senses.

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

- As planned, senior leaders should work with staff, children, parents and partners to increase access to high quality outdoor learning.
- Staff should continue to develop their curriculum. The team should increase planned opportunities that challenge children to apply and develop further their skills. Children need more opportunities to make connections across different areas of their learning.

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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 Nursery Times by the River

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Curriculum	**satisfactory**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	**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: Reports page | Inspection reports | HMIE

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. West Dunbartonshire Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Margaret Paterson
HM Inspector

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

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