27 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Menstrie ELC. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the head of setting and staff.

The early learning and childcare setting was inspected as part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

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

- The highly effective approaches staff use to listen to and include all children. Staff demonstrate a consistently nurturing approach and a strong understanding of child development. Children are respected, engaged and empowered as they lead their own learning.

- Staff's responsive approaches to learning, teaching and assessment that are well informed by research and professional learning. Children benefit from an ambitious, well-planned curriculum that responds very well to their needs, developmental stages and interests. Highly effective partnerships with parents, local organisations, and wider community partners enrich learning.

- The head of centres inspiring leadership of collaborative working that supports inclusion very well. Parents, visiting professionals and staff work creatively to identify and secure the right support, at the right time, for children and families with specific needs. The team's effective use of assessments, targeted support plans and work with other agencies ensures children thrive. The senior leadership team's evidence-based approaches that maximise children's progress in learning. Staff initiate and sustain effective joint working with a local primary school. Together they use developmentally appropriate assessments at times of transition to build on children's prior learning. Staff support children very well to document their ideas and tell their own stories.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head of setting and a representative from Clackmannanshire Council.

- As planned, senior leaders should continue to support staff to share their expertise in recording high-quality observations of children's learning. This should support all staff to continue to build a comprehensive picture that celebrates each child's unique learning and progress.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the setting's work using three quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. As this inspection is part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors, these quality indicators have not been graded.

Quality indicators for the nursery class
Curriculum
Learning, teaching and assessment
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality

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

What happens next?

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

Margaret Paterson
HM Inspector

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