

Standards and Quality Report

Ardvreck Nursery

2023-2024

This is a brief outline of the setting's progress over the year 2023-2024.
It follows the sections set down by Education & Children's Services, Perth & Kinross Council



(This report has been produced in consultation with staff, children, parents/carers, and friends of Ardvreck Nursery)

Setting Aims:

Ardvreck Nursery aims to create an environment where every child can thrive, promoting a love of learning, independence, and supporting each child's development. Through integrated indoor and outdoor learning experiences guided by trained staff, we encourage hands-on exploration. Families actively participate in our educational journey through various activities and events. Our ethos of 'Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share' underpins all activities, promoting environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Regular staff meetings and professional development sessions ensure ongoing growth and quality enhancement. Daily routines incorporate holistic development practices, nurturing values like kindness and honesty.

Our Improvement Priorities for 2024-2025:

Developmental Milestones Achievement

Ensure 95% of N5 and N6 children reach milestones by May 2025.

Targeted interventions for consistent progress.

Nursery Ethos Development

Engage families and children in Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share.

Integrate ethos into 80% of daily routines

Joined Approach with Little Ardvreck, and local primary schools

Smooth transitions between Ardvreck Nursery, by May 2025.

Enhanced collaboration and leadership.

Focused efforts for holistic child development and community engagement.

Progress with Improvement Outcomes for 2023-24:

Significant progress was achieved in literacy and numeracy for both pre-school and ante pre-school children. This improvement was supported by comprehensive staff development initiatives, effective family engagement strategies, and efficient resource management practices. Additionally, there was a focus on promoting wellbeing, equality, and inclusion, evidenced by sensitivity to individual needs and observed progress, which received positive feedback and saw high participation. Looking forward, plans include enhancing understanding of rights and further refining information sharing practices. Moreover, efforts in raising attainment and achievement, such as maintaining

a positive learning environment and implementing monthly audits alongside the Maths Improvement Programme, resulted in increased staff confidence and measurable progress. Future steps aim to continue enhancing learning experiences and supporting overall wellbeing.

Activities & Successes During 2023-24:

Welcomed two new members of staff to our team

Forest Schools: All Staff are Forest Kindergarten trained, using their skills to provide fun and interesting play based experiences

Staff participated in Maths Improvement program

Staff have been on Good Practice visits

Continuing to Develop Our Garden. Families contributing vegetables and seeds for the garden.

Successfully secured a Grant from Learning through Landscapes

Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share. Continuing to embed this into our Nursery philosophy.

Calamari SHANARRI continues to help the children learn about the SHANARRI indicators that we use in everyday life

Daily 'Outdoor Sessions

Exploring Ardvreck Grounds and surrounding areas on Nature walks

The children sing to The Mother Nature Tree, showing respect for nature, as well as having the opportunity to leave their identity behind and take a Nature Name

The nursery attend weekly Form and Celebration assemblies with the whole school

Preschool children attend transition sessions

Children have attended and thoroughly enjoyed weekly Music lessons with a specialist teacher in the music room, outside and in Nursery

Nursery children have led of their own assemblies, they have a sense of pride and achievement

Children watch school productions, enjoying the experience.

With families the Nursery participated in a Nursery camp out.

Nursery sports afternoon with tea, joined by families.

Nursery Nativity, parents invited in.

Nursery participated in a shorter version of the Ard Challenge, followed by a family BBQ and bouncy castle and fun.

Parents invited for numerous open sessions- 'Peep sessions', music, outdoor learning

The children have a weekly gymnastics session with a gymnastics specialist

Library visits to community library

Form 5 join Nursery twice weekly with a focus on reading

Weekly story sessions with the Head Teacher

Monthly Nursery visits Balhousie Care home

Open days

Achievements:

Pre-School Children:

Literacy:

High engagement and progress in reading and writing.

Staff Feedback: Significant improvement in literacy skills.

Most pre-school children have shown significant progress in literacy.

Numeracy:

Effective engagement in numeracy tasks.

Staff have Increased overall confidence in delivering numeracy experiences.

Most pre-school children have made considerable progress in numeracy.

Ante Pre-School Children:

Literacy:

Early literacy skills development.

Staff observe positive engagement with storybooks and language activities.

Majority of ante pre-school children have shown considerable progress in literacy.

Numeracy:

Promising early numeracy skills development.

Staff observe effective use of play-based learning for numeracy.

Most ante pre-school children are showing promising early numeracy skills.

Learning: 2.3 Learning, Teaching, and Assessment

Over the past year, we have ensured consistent motivation and engagement for children through diverse and stimulating activities tailored to their interests and developmental needs.

Key strategies and initiatives include:

Personalised Learning: Adapted planning based on observation data and developmental milestone tracking to offer individualised learning experiences.

Independent Learning: Emphasis on self-directed exploration and decision-making, fostering independence and the development of the four capacities.

New Initiatives: Introduction of a planning board, Loose Parts training, Forest Kindergarten completion, and Emotion Works training, all enhancing our practices.

Maths Improvement Programme: Supporting practitioners in delivering numeracy experiences through play-based learning, evidenced by increased confidence and children's progress in numeracy.

The Jungle Journey: A 9-week program for early motor skills development, supported by Nurse Milne.

Resource Assessment: Evaluating resource use through observations and staff feedback, ensuring effectiveness.

Child Participation: Actively involving children in setting and working towards their learning goals.

Communication Channels: Employing open-door policies and annual reports to enhance collaboration and information sharing with parents.

Engagement and motivation are consistently maintained through varied activities, as demonstrated by observed participation, interest levels, and positive feedback from children and parents. Personalised learning is ensured through adapted planning, with progress tracked via developmental milestones.

Recent initiatives have had a positive impact on practice, as reflected in practitioner feedback and improvements in children's engagement and learning outcomes. The Maths Improvement Programme has notably increased practitioner confidence and children's numeracy skills, supported by data tracking and observations.

We are currently evaluating resource availability and staff training needs to improve access to digital technologies and enhance outdoor learning experiences. Evidence of positive impact includes increased engagement, progress in developmental milestones, enhanced independence, and improved learning outcomes.

Our improvement priorities focus on refining assessment strategies, enhancing practitioner skills, and strengthening communication channels with parents to ensure ongoing collaboration and support for children's learning and development. We aim to enhance access to high-quality resources and digital technologies by integrating them with our outdoor learning initiatives.

Leadership: 1.3 Leadership of Change

Over the past year, our nursery has made significant progress through our play-based learning approach and focus on outdoor exploration, leading to notable engagement and developmental gains in children.

Key initiatives include:

Weekly staff meetings

Regular senior management meetings

Daily briefings

Monthly professional development sessions

Dedicated in-service days

These strategies ensure effective communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement to meet the evolving needs of our learners and community.

We track progress using developmental milestones, observations, and parent feedback, which demonstrate the success of our approach. Regular feedback from staff, parents, and children further guides our ongoing improvements.

Our commitment to values such as Earth care, people care, and fair share is highlighted through assemblies and informational booklets. Daily routines integrate these values, promoting staff reflection and maintaining our goal alignment, fostering a culture of accountability and excellence.

Engaging families and children in our core values and practices remains a priority. Activities like Peep sessions and collaborative events strengthen home-nursery connections. Comprehensive handbooks and strategic planning processes support the clarity and consistency of our continuous improvement efforts.