

**Follow-through Inspection by
HM Inspectorate of Education of
Chatelherault Primary School
Nursery Class
South Lanarkshire Council**

11 October 2006



**Chatelherault Primary School Nursery Class
Silvertonhill Avenue
Hamilton
ML3 7NT**

In carrying out this follow-through inspection, HM Inspectors take account of *National Care Standards, Early Education and Childcare up to the age of 16,* and *The Child at the Centre*. The following standards and related quality indicators were used in the recent inspection.

National Care Standard	Child at the Centre Quality Indicator
Standard 2 – A Safe Environment	Resources
Standard 4 – Engaging With Children	Development and learning through play
Standard 5 – Quality of Experience	Curriculum Children’s development and learning
Standard 6 – Support and Development	Support for children and families
Standard 14 – Well-managed Service	Management, Leadership and Quality Assurance

Evaluations made using HMIE quality indicators use the following scale, and these words are used in the report to describe the team’s judgements:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| excellent | excellent |
| very good | major strengths |
| good | important strengths, some areas for improvement |
| adequate | strengths just outweigh weaknesses |
| weak | important weaknesses |
| unsatisfactory | major weaknesses |

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Introduction

Chatelherault Primary School Nursery Class was inspected in June 2006 as part of a programme of follow-through inspections carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education. The nursery had been inspected by the Care Commission and HM Inspectorate of Education as part of a programme of integrated inspections in June 2006, and a report was published in December 2004. The education authority, working with staff, had prepared an action plan indicating how the recommendations identified in the integrated inspection report would be addressed. The purpose of this follow-through inspection is to evaluate the progress made by Chatelherault Primary School Nursery Class in achieving improvements based on the recommendations set out in the integrated inspection report.

Recommendations		Evaluation of progress
1.	Nursery staff should improve the assessment, recording and reporting of children's progress in each of the five areas of development and learning.	Good
2.	Nursery staff should continue to improve communication between the nursery and parents.	Very good
3.	Senior managers should improve teamwork among nursery staff.	Good
4.	The school, in collaboration with the education authority, should improve the leadership of the nursery.	Very good
5.	Senior managers should develop clear policies and procedures with staff and share them with parents.	Very good
6.	Senior managers should work with staff to introduce effective self-evaluation.	Adequate

Overview of progress achieved

Planning now set out clearly what children were expected to learn. It was becoming flexible enough to respond to children's interests. Staff recorded children's learning and progress regularly but the quality of their observations varied and was not always sufficiently focused to plan appropriate next steps in children's learning.

Communication with parents had greatly improved. Staff encouraged parents to experience children's activities at helpful workshops and open days, which included a walk round the nature trail. They sought parents' views about the work of the nursery through questionnaires and responded appropriately. The recently formed Parents' Forum was providing helpful suggestions on improving aspects of the nursery, including a more informative handbook and reporting to parents.

Teamwork among nursery staff was improving. Staff were positive about senior managers' leadership and support. They particularly valued the support of the recently-appointed nursery teacher, especially her knowledge and experience in planning and assessing children's learning and progress. The depute headteacher had improved staff working patterns, providing more stability and continuity in children's learning. More formal meetings between staff and senior managers would be beneficial in planning further improvements and encouraging more decision making.

There had been significant improvement in the leadership of the nursery. The headteacher ensured the depute headteacher, who was responsible for the day-to-day running of the nursery, and nursery teacher had clear remits and responsibilities. Senior managers visited the nursery daily and parents felt they knew their children very well. Their open, approachable and supportive leadership style was appreciated by staff, parents and children.

Management ensured staff took part in staff development and training which was focused on their needs. They had developed a comprehensive range of appropriate policies and procedures which provided helpful guidance to staff. They shared these and the welcoming nursery handbook with parents. Accident and incidents were now recorded appropriately.

Monitoring and evaluating the work of the nursery was at an early stage of development. Staff had evaluated and discussed key areas of the nursery. They evaluated their plans and the depute headteacher provided them with helpful oral and written feedback. However, evaluations were often too broad

and lacked focus. Senior managers did not yet formally monitor the quality of children's learning experiences in the nursery, although this was planned.

Other Issues - *Response to recommendations or to requirements made at the last Care Commission singleton inspection.*

Senior managers and staff had addressed almost all of the recommendations made at the previous Care Commission inspection satisfactorily. The nursery and education authority should ensure regular fire drills are implemented.

Conclusion

Chatelherault Primary School Nursery Class had made good progress in overtaking the key recommendations set out in the report of December 2004. As a result of the progress achieved HM Inspectors will request a progress report from the education authority within one year of the date of this report.

June Graham
HM Inspector

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you would like an additional copy of this report

Copies of this report have been sent to the headteacher, staff and the education authority. Copies are also available on the Care Commission website: www.carecommission.com and HMIE website: www.hmie.gov.uk.

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Should you wish to comment on any aspect of pre-school inspections, you should write in the first instance to Kenneth Muir, HMCI, at HM Inspectorate of Education, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

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