Follow-through Inspection by
HM Inspectorate of Education of
Langlee Primary School Nursery Class
Scottish Borders Council

21 February 2007
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.

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

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: outstanding, sector leading
- 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

Langlee Primary School Nursery Class was inspected in November 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 February 2004, and a report was published in June 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 Langlee Primary School Nursery Class in achieving improvements based on the recommendations set out in the integrated inspection report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Evaluation of progress</th>
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<td>1. Staff should improve the programmes for learning as outlined in this report.</td>
<td>Very good</td>
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<td>2. Managers should develop a system for effective monitoring and evaluation of the work of the nursery and improve communication with staff.</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<td>3. The nursery should develop effective procedures for planning, observing, assessing and recording children’s progress, based on clear links to the five key aspects of the curriculum.</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The nursery should improve safety and security within the premises as outlined in this report.</td>
<td>Very good</td>
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</table>
Overview of progress achieved

The acting headteacher and nursery class teacher had been in post for three months at the time of the follow-through inspection. Prior to the appointment of these key staff, very little progress had been made towards addressing the recommendations outlined in the initial report. Together with the nursery staff, they have had significant impact upon changes to practice and the quality of the nursery provision.

Staff had made very good progress in improving the curriculum programmes for learning. Overall, the programmes were a major strength. In particular, the children had very good experiences caring for and observing the indoor garden area. Information and communications technology was used effectively to support children's learning. Children demonstrated very good skills in talking and listening. Staff created stimulating opportunities for children to explore and share imaginative ideas. The outdoor play area was of a very good standard and used daily for energetic play and to develop children's curiosity. Children were developing very good independence in dressing and taking responsibilities around the nursery. Appropriate emphasis was given to promoting healthy lifestyles.

In the short time the acting headteacher had been in post, she had implemented effective approaches to monitoring and evaluating the nursery provision. Priorities for development were identified and appropriate support and training provided. Staff were involved in the process of self-evaluation and were benefiting from the improved teamwork. With their continued commitment to further improving the nursery and open communication, they should build on this important strength. Staff demonstrated their improved teamwork through planning collaboratively for children's learning. They had made good progress in developing effective procedures for planning, observing, assessing and recording children's progress. Medium-term planning made clear the learning outcomes to be observed and recorded. Staff were recording children's progress well for some aspects of their development. They recognised the need to make focused observations across the curriculum and to record findings systematically for individuals.

Progress in improving the safety and security within the nursery premises was very good. The recommendations to address the disposal of waste, staffing levels, installation and management of smoke detectors, the suitability of the outdoor play area and risk assessments had been fully met. A shed was about to be erected to store play equipment, and the new gates leading to and from the outdoor area modified to improve security. All other aspects of security were appropriate.
Other Issues - Response to recommendations or to requirements made at previous Care Commission inspection.

Fire drills were practised in-line with the recommendation.

Information for nursery parents was being updated by the new nursery teacher and acting headteacher.

The policy on child protection had not yet been shared with parents.

Conclusion

Langlee Primary School Nursery Class had made good progress in overtaking the key recommendations set out in the report of June 2004. As a result of the progress achieved, HM Inspectors will make no further visits in connection with the inspection report of June 2004.

Susan Gow
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 acting 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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