



Early Learning and Childcare in Highland

Welcome to the second Early Learning and Childcare newsletter

We hope you had a good summer and that all staff and children are settling back into the routines of your settings.

For those of you with Numeracy and Mathematics on your Improvement Plans there are Early Years Numeracy courses on the 26th September and 26th October. You can find these on the CPD calendar.

More information and ideas about maths can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/mathsweek>



[Creativity](#)

As you continue to engage with Building the Ambition and to develop creativity, inquiry and curiosity there are some resources you may wish to access. Education Scotland has produced a poster on creativity in Early Years. This could be displayed for parents or used as a discussion point for staff during self-evaluation. Play Scotland have published a 'Loose Parts' leaflet for families to promote engagement in loose parts play.



[Loose Parts leaflet](#)

An t-Alltan 2017



Bidh An t-Alltan 2017 air a chumail ann an Ionad Co-labhairt MhicDhòmhnaill san Aghaidh Mhòir, air 27 & 28 Sultain. Tha a' cho-labhairt seo a' toirt sàr chothrom do luchd-foghlaim Gàidhlig air leasachadh dreuchdail agus a' toirt cothrom sùil a thoirt air iomairtean teagaisg agus ionnsachaidh ùra tro shreath de dh'òraidean agus bùthan-obrach. [Cliog](#) airson barrachd fiosrachadh.

The An t-Alltan 2017 conference for Gaelic teachers and Early Years staff will be held in the MacDonald Aviemore Conference Centre, on 27 & 28 September.

The conference is an excellent professional learning opportunity for Gaelic educationalists and provides delegates with the opportunity to have a look at new initiatives for teaching and learning through a series of talks and workshops. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Family Learning (QI 2.5)

Education Scotland have issued some guidance on Family Learning which can be found on the National Improvement Hub: [Family Learning](#)

'Family learning is an approach to engaging families in learning outcomes that have an impact on the whole family... This will be most relevant for practitioners delivering family learning outcomes such as those working in CLD, the Third Sector, teachers, early years etc.'



[Space To Grow](#) A new guide from Scottish Government and the Care Inspectorate to enhance the design of childcare provision across Scotland is now available for local authorities, private and third sector providers.

Care Inspectorate have now published the new 'Health and Social Care Standards, My Support, My Life'. These will be rolled out from April 2018.

The document can be found [here](#)



Reminders!

The Curriculum Overview (Overview of Experiences and Outcomes Addressed) and the Observation Sheets have been updated in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Also note that Education Scotland has updated the Technologies experiences and outcomes.



Words Up Key Messages should be used on a daily basis to support the children's language and communication skills.



The [Highland Literacy Blog](#) has lots of useful information on Emerging Literacy.

Personal Care Plans, as asked for by the Care Inspectorate, should have been completed/reviewed for **all** children at the start of the new session and subsequently updated every 6 months. Guidance on completing these is available on the ELC blog.

Developmental Overviews should be started as soon as children are settled. This will enable you to support the children's progress throughout the year. Information on strategies to support children can be found at [bumps2bairns](#).

Emerging Literacy in Early Learning and Childcare. Training for ELC staff is available. Please contact your EYESO for details.

Expansion in the Early Years. As we move closer towards 2020 all Local Authorities have to submit a fully costed delivery plan to the Scottish Government by the end of September 2017 which will detail how they plan to implement the expansion to 1140 hours. This is being led by the EY Strategic Group chaired by the Director of Care and Learning.



Child Protection. A new child protection site has now been launched. This website is for anyone who wants to know more about child protection. It has been developed by Highland Child Protection Committee to help you find out what to do and who to contact if you are concerned about a child and information on what might happen next. You can also search the site for information about local and national services, training courses and recent publications, as well as policies and forthcoming events. [HCPC](#)