

# Early Learning and Childcare in Highland

keep up-to-date ~ share good practice

## Welcome to the first Early Learning and Childcare newsletter!

Last term we met with managers and practitioners around Highland. We asked for ideas about the best way for the EYESO team to communicate with you and keep you up-to-date with new initiatives and current good practice both locally and nationally. Thank you to those who made suggestions. A blog and newsletter proved to be the most popular so we have started to develop the **Early Learning and Childcare Blog**. The layout of the blog is a work in progress and will continue to be updated. Please click on the 'Follow' tab on the home page to receive update alerts straight to your inbox. We hope you will find this a useful resource and we would gratefully appreciate your feedback via the feedback tab.

## Emerging Literacy

This half day training has been designed primarily for Early Years Practitioners to provide the theory and practical strategies to support the development of Emerging Literacy within Early Learning and Childcare. The training is aimed to support Emerging Literacy through the Early Level.

For the first round of training (March - May 2017) priority will be given to settings which feed into schools which are part of the Emerging Literacy Networks. Booking can be made through the **CPD Calendar**.

**Getting Ready to Read** is the Care Inspectorate's new guidance for providers and inspectors on supporting early language development.

## Words Up

The **Words Up Key Messages** have been created to support the development of **Oral Language** through the promotion of adult/child interaction.

To support the **Words Up Key Messages** a number of videos have been created to allow practitioners to reflect on how these key messages feature in day-to-day interactions between adults and children. **Click here to access the Words Up Key Message support videos.**



It is recommended that all practitioners attend Words Up training.

Resources to support practitioners who aim to take a developmental approach to Literacy can be accessed on the **Highland Literacy Blog**.

Care Inspectorate  
Self-assessment 2017/18



Due to the launch of the new National Health and Social Care Standards and the number of changes to self-assessment, settings are not required to complete a self-assessment from August 2017 for the session 2017/18.

However, if you have an inspection, inspectors will ask for your setting's Improvement Plan and will discuss any improvements you have made, or intend to make, since the last inspection.

Settings will still be required to submit their Annual Return in January/February.

### Top Tips!

The **Setting the Table** guidance reminds us all to prepare small fruit and vegetables safely to reduce the risk of choking. Grapes should always be halved or quartered lengthways before serving. Involving children in preparing snack will help to develop their independence and fine motor skills.

#### Reducing the risk of choking:

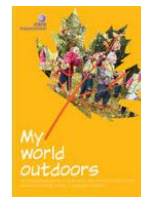
It is important to supervise young children when they are eating and provide assistance if required. Young children are still learning about different textures and tastes. Some foods may need additional preparation, particularly for very young children.

- Remove any stones or pips before serving.
- Slice, halve or chop small fruit and vegetables like cherry tomatoes and grapes.
- Cut large fruits into slices rather than chunks.
- Avoid whole nuts.



### Outdoor Learning

'Outdoor experiences provide a rich context that enhances other ongoing improvement work.' (**Building the Ambition**) Our aim is to ensure 'we provide the highest quality opportunities for children to experience high quality play both indoors and outdoors.' (**HGIOELC**) To support this work you may find the following links helpful:



Tha **Leugh, Sgrìobh, Cunntais** a' toirt molaidhean, beachdan agus gnìomhachd do phàrantan a chuidicheas an clann le bhith a' toirt toiseachd tòiseachaidh air leth math dhaibh nam beatha.

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