

Early Learning and Childcare in Highland

keep up-to-date ~ share best practice

Welcome to the first newsletter as we embrace new ways of working using many more digital platforms. Settings are being more and more creative in the ways they connect with families to ensure they keep building positive relationships with all of their early years' children.

Highland Digital Hub Resources

There is a new Highland Digital Hub to support home learning which includes a section dedicated to Early Learning and Childcare. This contains useful advice for staff and families. Find out more by visiting the site [here](#).



Key Worker Hubs

We are extremely thankful to all of our staff members who are working hard to keep the Key Worker hubs running.

Highland Council, Highlife Highland and Broadford Outdoor Learning volunteers are helping to support the children of Key Workers with outdoor learning opportunities.



Staff and children in the Broadford Key Worker Hub have been busy over the last few weeks giving the outdoor space a makeover. They have been working hard to clear spaces and create new paths. The children have also built a natural grass couch across from their pond which is now home to many newts. The children are also working on a 'coffee table' which they decided should be called a 'hot chocolate' table.



The natural grass couch the children have been involved in developing during their time in the Broadford Hub.

Developmental Overviews Update

Developmental Overviews are an integral part of children's profiles. They should be used to inform next steps and provide data for targeted support. In the current working environment, many settings and staff have questions about the use of Overviews to support the transition process. In normal years, settings are asked to pass on completed 4-year-old Developmental Overviews to P1 teachers to give an initial sense of children's developmental strengths and gaps. There are obvious difficulties with this at the present time, so settings should simply pass on whatever they have managed to complete by August when schools reopen. In addition, the usual annual central collation of Overviews will not take place to reduce burdens on staff and also because the data will not be comparable to previous years.

'Cluichidh sinn Còmhla'

'Cluichidh sinn Còmhla' is a new resource created in collaboration with Early Years Practitioners who are linking 'Bumps to Bairns' play based learning activities to language opportunities. You can find these on the [Gaelic Education](#) section on the ELC Blog.



Online CPL Resources

A variety of online support materials are now available on the ELC Blog to support Continuous Professional Learning. Follow the ELC blog for the latest updates on these by simply visiting www.elchighland.com and adding your email address to the 'follow' box on the homepage. Read some of the feedback from staff who have engaged with the resources below:

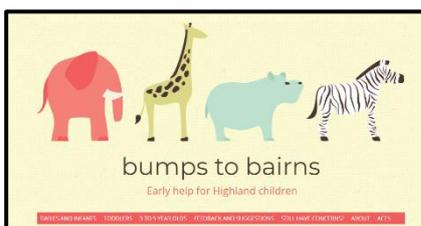
'Reminded me of the benefit of continuously reviewing and auditing your planning to ensure it is the most effective it can be.'

'As I am currently evaluating our profiles, it was helpful to have it broken down into sections, solidifying my current knowledge and further ideas to consider for progressing.'

'The course highlighted key areas and things to focus on when observing and interacting with the children. All useful and a good refresher!'

All CPL resources can be found by clicking [here](#).

Bumps2Bairns Daily Tips Success



Over the last two months, daily tips to support families with play-based home learning ideas have been published on the www.bumps2bairns.com site. The site has received thousands of regular hits and there has been positive feedback from families and staff who continue to use and share the tips each day. Sign up to follow the site at the address above and please share links to the site with your family networks.

Realising the Ambition Rollout



Education Scotland released this new practice guidance in the Spring. It covers learning from birth through to the end of Early Level and had significant input from Highland practitioners and partners at different stages. The new guidance represents a step change in practice that will be very helpful for settings when making quality improvements and smoothing transition between nursery and P1.

The EYESO team are working on ways to provide all staff with opportunities for training, reflection and discussion of the document using digital technologies over the next few weeks.

The first engagement session will take place on Monday the 1st of June with Early Years Educational Psychologist, James McTaggart. The session is for all Early Years staff including P1/2 teachers and Managers. The session will be run twice at 9.30am and 1.30pm through google meet. Please join using the link below:

meet.google.com/fef-vcqn-ojw

Care Inspectorate Information

The Care Inspectorate continue to update settings with the latest advice and guidance during the current Covid-19 pandemic including a letter which was sent to all settings on the 21st of May following the First Minister's update. For further information and updates please visit their [website](#).

