



# Early Learning and Childcare in Highland

keep up-to-date ~ share good practice

## ELC blog page - new learning in lockdown resource

Learning in  
Lockdown

Resources have been gathered to support practitioners as they deliver online learning during lockdown periods. They are designed to be used in flexible ways to suit the needs of individual settings. In the first day, we had over 1,200 views, which is amazing!  
During 2020, the ELC blog had over 80,000 views, so it has been a really useful source of information.

We have just added the **CPL Online Process** within the CPL tile on the home page, see [HERE](#).

### National Induction

This induction resource provides new ELC employees with all the relevant information they need on what to expect in their first few months in post, including the most up-to-date resources and best practice. This may also be beneficial for all ELC staff. It was recently updated in October 2020 so ensure you have this most up to date copy.



### What Scotland learned during lockdown



Congratulations to the EYESO team featured in this publication for the successful innovative bitesize training: 'short, snappy and interactive'. Click [here](#) to view.

Also included were the Words Up team, Kinmylies, Lundavra and St. Joseph's nurseries, Badcaul and Scoraig on Ed. Scot. online. These are each being featured on the ELC blog.

### Is your stress bucket full?



It is vitally important that you are looking after **your** health and well-being. Here are some great links for advice and help.

*ELC Health and Wellbeing - A site dedicated to the health and wellbeing of amazing ELC Practitioners.*

<https://teamelcwellbeinghub.org/>

#### *Coping*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPl3pU2\\_M88](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPl3pU2_M88)

#### *Managing Stress:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jLHTJsEYvY>

#### *Things you can do to help*

<https://clearyourhead.scot/>

#### *SSSC Wellbeing for yourself during*

#### *COVID 19*

<https://learn.sssc.uk.com/wellbeing/>

*Remember your line manager and colleagues are there to help as well.*



### Tongue – Can you beat this for a view?

Staff, children and parents are very pleased with their new build nursery.

Millie says - *It's fun to play in and I can see rainbows out of the window and I like the big tv we have.* Sophia says - *Doing work and playing with the toys is better in the new nursery.* Jack says - *The best bits are it's warm and cosy and that there is lots of room to play with the toys.*

Sophia's parents say, *"The new nursery is a warm, bright, clean space and is a massive improvement compared to our old nursery space. It's also great to be in the primary school grounds so the ELC and primary pupils can mix more, when they are allowed to again."* Jack's parent says, *"It's great having a modern build that is warm and gives better access to other technology and resources. And which also allows the children to have more outdoor space for outdoor learning."* Millie's parents say, *"We think the new nursery is great. It is so lovely, warm and a fun environment to work in and also great being right beside the school. It has fantastic views and great wee outdoor area."*

### Tha 'Cluichidh sinn Còmhla' air ais!

Chaidh an goireas seo a dhealbhadh agus a chruthachadh le feallsanachd bogadh sa Ghàidhlig mar bhun-stèidh agus tha e air a cheangal ris na gnìomhan aig 'Bumps to Bairns'.

Tha cothroman cànan a neartachadh air am fighe a-steach le ceanglaichean gu goireasan air-loidhne. Tha seo na ghoireas foir-sheallaidh do luchd-obrach ann an sgoiltean gus taic a thoirt dhan chloinn aig ìre làn-bhogaidh gus a' Ghàidhlig aca a chuideachadh aig an taigh.

Thèid 'Cluichidh sinn Còmhla' as ùr a chruthachadh gach seachdain agus a sgaoileadh air a' blog ELC [an seo](#).

### Scotland's Covid-19 lockdown has been extended until at least the middle of February.

The first minister hopes schools will be able to at least begin a phased return by the middle of next month. Nurseries & regulated childcare providers should continue to open to key worker/vulnerable children only.

### The Scottish Government Outdoor Clothing Fund

The ambition of this fund is to reduce inequalities for children accessing the outdoors as part their funded Early Learning & Childcare entitlement in local authority or Funded Partner settings. Maximum grant is £1000.

Funded Partners must be in partnership and actively delivering the funded offer.

Funded partners can be private, voluntary, or independent OR childminders, but must be in partnership with a Local Authority to deliver the funded ELC offer to children.

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4873874>



### Daily Top Tips for how

young children can learn at home through play and fun. Also, ideas on helping young children with stress/worries and what to do if you are worried about your child's learning or development.

<http://bumps2bairns.com>

If a child has a lot of concerns just now, then they may like this story about [Dave the Dog](#).

### Bitesize recordings

The EYESO team are producing some new training and development resources this term. These will be recorded and available on the blog and digital hub.

Environment - experiences, spaces & interactions

Family Learning

Confidence, creativity and curiosity

Responsive and intentional learning

Adversity and Trauma

GME Play and Pedagogy

Self and Team Care

Outdoor Learning

### Dornoch ELC & Bonar Bridge ELC class

contributed to getting the Silver Rights Respecting School award. They were also involved in choosing books for the library to include diversity awareness and took part in the "sleepover" with hot chocolate and storytelling. Other projects were: healthy eating raising awareness with families, bucket of happiness, wildlife environmental activities and fitness.



Bonar Bridge ELCC have worked hard to develop their provision of loose parts play. The children have free, open access to the materials in their room and can be seen building, exploring, testing and thinking imaginatively. There's been a marked improvement in pupils' creative thinking and problem-solving ability and the opportunities for learning and exploration seem to be endless.



### Dates for the calendar



- RSPB's Bird watch Jan 5<sup>th</sup>-Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>
- National Storytelling week Jan 30<sup>th</sup>-Feb 5<sup>th</sup>
- Children's mental health week Feb 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>
- Safer internet day Feb 9<sup>th</sup>
- Chinese New Year - The year of the ox Feb 12<sup>th</sup>-Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- Valentine's Day Feb 14<sup>th</sup>
- Kindness week Feb 14<sup>th</sup>-Feb 20<sup>th</sup>
- Feb Long weekend 15/16<sup>th</sup>
- In service day 17<sup>th</sup> Feb
- World Book Day 4<sup>th</sup> March
- Pancake Day Feb 16<sup>th</sup>
- World Maths day March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Mothers' Day March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Spring, March 20<sup>th</sup>-June 21<sup>st</sup>
- School holiday begins Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, return date Tues 4<sup>th</sup> May
- In-service day Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> May



### World Book Day

Lots of great activities and events such as Live Author, World Book Day Book Club, the World Book Day Author & Illustrator Academy and Share A Story Corner video story books.



### Family engagement

North Childcare Managers, SEYPs and Graduates met together to discuss family engagement and share best practice during lockdown. We shared our use of DOJO through the class story and how we can continue to develop the children's dojo profiles, where parents can share photos from home of what the children have been up to: splashing in puddles, baking or sharing stories with their siblings. Keyworkers can then offer personalised support through engagement with families and maintain links whilst they are not in the settings. We had discussions around how we can comment on the learning, offer ideas to continue working on next steps at home and even offer ways to build on areas within the developmental overviews through play and fun!

Similar discussions took place in the Childminder drop in sessions, which are open to all childminders.

Another North setting had fun with Show & Tell online.

Puzzle Page for Professionals, starting with a Quick Quiz on the National Standards

1. In which Blueprint can you find details of the ELC National Standards? [FAQ / Principles and Practice / Operating Guidance \(choose one answer\)](#)
2. Who were they written for? [All ELC employers / funded providers / childminders](#)
3. How many criteria are there in total? [3 / 5 / 10](#)
4. Which criterion has separate details for childminders? [1 / 3 / 5](#)
5. What is the SSSC minimum number of required CPL hours per year? [8 / 12 / 16](#)
6. Which criterion is about parent / carer engagement? [5 / 8 / 10](#)
7. Which criterion says to comply with duties under the Equality Act 2010? [4 / 6 / 10](#)
8. How can we check our National Standard progress? [Read it / audit / look it up here](#)

ELC Word Search, written by Joyce, who then needed over 30 minutes to find them all herself! So your challenge is to find all 40 words below in less than 30 minutes. Joyce promises to personally eat the prize chocolate bar for you (so we are not breaking any hygiene rules at this time). 😊



CREATIVITY  
CURIOSITY  
CURRICULUM  
DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
EMOTIONS  
ENVIRONMENT  
EVALUATION  
FLEXIBLE  
FUN  
GARDEN  
HAPPY  
HEALTH  
HEURISTIC

INTERACTION  
LAUGHTER  
LEADERSHIP  
LEARNING  
LITERACY  
MOTIVATION  
NUMERACY  
NURTURE  
OUTDOORS  
PEDAGOGY  
PLANNING  
PLAY  
PLAYDOUGH  
PROFILE

QUALITY  
READING  
REFLECTION  
SAFE  
SAND  
SCIENCE  
SENSORY  
SPACE  
STORY  
SUPPORT  
WATER  
WELLBEING