

Early Learning and Childcare in Highland

keep up-to-date ~ share best practice

We hope you had a lovely summer and that all staff and children are settling into familiar routines. Wishing you all a fun and learning filled term!

Expansion Update

We are pleased to inform you that Highland is one of the 8 local authorities chosen to benefit from support from [Inspiring Scotland](#) to deliver the Scottish Government's ambitions for enhanced outdoor learning opportunities as part of the expansion of funded ELC to 1140 hours by 2020.

In addition, 6 ELC settings across Highland are going to be delivering 1140 funded hours starting this session and we look forward to seeing how this develops.



INSPIRING SCOTLAND



We would like to welcome a small but growing number of Childminders across Highland who are now commissioned to deliver funded ELC for 3 to 5 year olds.

New Posts in ELC

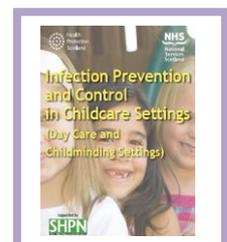


We would also like to welcome six Early Years Graduates to ELC settings across Highland. These posts are funded by the Scottish Government to support our ambition to close the attainment gap.

EYESO Team

As you may be aware there have been several changes to the EYESO team recently. Ruth Davidson (South) has retired and Ashley Bartlett (Mid) is now on a seconded post as DHT in Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Helen Mudie's secondment to the South team has been extended for this session.

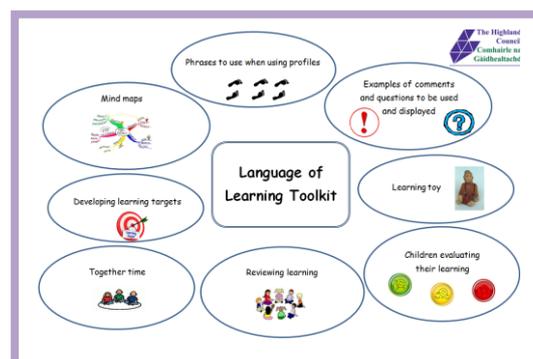
[NHS Infection Prevention and Control in Childcare](#)



An updated version of this document was produced in May 2018. Please ensure this document now informs your practice.

Updated Language of Learning Toolkit

Highland Council's Language of Learning Toolkit has been updated with input from the Speech and Language Therapy team. Several changes have been made to ensure that it reflects current good practice including Words Up key messages. Please note the addition of a very helpful page on the "Development of questions". It can be found on *Glow* and the [ELC Highland Blog](#)



Improving Gender Balance

[Improving Gender Balance](#) is an action guide which provides ideas on how to challenge gender stereotypes whilst maintaining a child centred approach. "Early learning and childcare practitioners have an important role to play in challenging gender stereotyped messages about what children can and cannot do as a girl or a boy from a very early age."

Science with Teddy in the Park



This is an exciting opportunity for a number of ELC staff to take part in online training to develop confidence and skills in supporting children's science through play. Resources and a USB with all the information will be provided prior to the training which will take place on the 10th October 15.45 -16.45. It will be hosted at several locations across Highland. If you are interested please contact your EYESO by 31st August.

Early Level Literacy Progression Framework

A new [Early Level Literacy and English progression framework](#) has been developed to support learning, teaching and assessment which has replaced the Early Level within Steps to Success. The new framework can help you plan next steps for learning which are developmentally appropriate for each child. More information can be found on the Highland Literacy Blog.

Loose Parts Play in Stepping Stones Nursery

...where little feet take big steps 🦶🦶🦶



When Stepping Stones Nursery in Tain recently extended their building and outdoor space they dedicated part of their outdoor area to loose parts play. With the help of parents, staff and local businesses they gathered a varied selection of loose parts which has led to lots of learning and fun!

During the summer the children worked co-operatively on a number of child initiated and child led 'projects' such as making a house and even building London! While engaging in this creative and imaginative play they were learning about size and shape and were constantly problem solving. They were also communicating with each other and learning how to share and negotiate.

Please refer to the [Loose Parts Play Toolkit](#) if you would like to develop loose parts play in your setting.