

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
9 JUNE 2010**

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES –
PUBLISHED REPORTS – APRIL 2010**

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Children and Young People's Services Committee to scrutinise and note the integrated inspection of pre-school centres by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Care Commission (CC) which was published in April 2010:

- Jack 'n' Jill Pre-school Centre & 1st Base Out of School Care, Elgin –
Appendix 1

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Children and Young People's Services Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Between April 2003 and March 2007 pre-school centres underwent an annual inspection. Two out of every three of these were Singleton Inspections by the CC and one was an Integrated Inspection by HMIE jointly with the CC. Integrated Inspections have been reported to Committee since 25 May 2005.

3.2 Since April 2007 HMIE and the CC have been carrying out a revised, more proportionate model of integrated inspection.

The cycle for integrated inspections follows the same cycle as for primary schools, currently a 7-year generational one. The frequency of follow-through visits is decided either on the basis of the quality of provision evaluated during integrated inspections or to provide intelligence for HMIE about good practice. It also takes account of CC information on complaints, recommendations and requirements.

3.3 From August 2008, Inspectors focus on the quality of children's experiences and outcomes, and the success of the pre-school provision in improving the quality of education. In doing so, Inspectors report on specific aspects of the provision using the following quality indicators from *The Child at the Centre 2*:

- 1.1 Improvements in performance
- 2.1 Children's experiences

- 5.1 The curriculum
- 5.3 Meeting learning needs
- 5.9 Improvement through self-evaluation

They also take account of *National Care Standards, Early Years and Childcare up to the age of 16* which are linked in turn to the CC's Quality Statements.

3.4 Inspectors report on these quality indicators using the six point scale::

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <i>Excellent</i> | <i>outstanding, sector leading</i> | 6 |
| <i>Very good</i> | <i>major strengths</i> | 5 |
| <i>Good</i> | <i>important strengths, some areas for improvement</i> | 4 |
| <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>strengths just outweigh weaknesses</i> | 3 |
| <i>Weak</i> | <i>important weaknesses</i> | 2 |
| <i>Unsatisfactory</i> | <i>major weaknesses</i> | 1 |

3.5 Following publication, inspection reports are available in the Members' Library, through pre-school centres, Council Headquarters, HMIE, the Care Commission and online at www.hmie.gov.uk and www.carecommission.com.

3.6 The pre-school centres and the authority will address, together, the improvement objectives identified within the **Integrated Inspections** as follows:

- **Jack 'n' Jill Pre-school Centre & 1st Base Out of School Care, Elgin**
HMIE state that this centre provides a very good quality experience for the children who attend. The authority will continue to support the centre in addressing the areas for development. (see Appendix 1)

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

- (i) The report is relevant in relation to Local Priority 5 – Attainment and Achievement (Children and Young People) within the Single Outcome Agreement, Local Priority 6 – Young People (Early Years), and
- (ii) Action Area 11 – Curriculum for Excellence in the Service Improvement Plan, and Action Area 6 – Early Years Framework.

(b) Policy and Legal

The report should be considered against the guidance in Section 34 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000, in relation to pre-school education.

The authority has a duty to provide a quality, pre-school education place for every 3 and 4 year old whose parents wish it.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

None.

(d) Consultations

Senior Officers in Educational Services, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, and Acting Principal Solicitor (Litigation and Licensing), have been consulted and are in agreement with the relevant sections of the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.

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Background Papers:
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services Committee/9 June 2010/Integrated Inspections of Pre-school Centres – Published Reports – April 2010

APPENDIX 1

INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS

1. **Jack 'n' Jill Pre-school Centre & 1st Base Out of School Care, Elgin –**
published on 21 April 2010

Particular strengths of the centre:

- Confident children who talk enthusiastically about their learning.
- The welcoming family ethos of the centre and the warm, supportive relationships amongst all.
- Involvement of parents and links with the community.
- The enthusiasm of the management team in developing the work of the centre.

Areas for improvement:

- Continue to take account of aspects of *Curriculum for Excellence*.
- Continue to develop approaches to evaluating children's learning and achievement to ensure experiences are at the right level for all children.
- Continue to develop focused monitoring and self-evaluation to support improvements

Requirements

- None

Issues from previous inspections

N/A

Evaluations:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Improvements in performance | Very good |
| Children's experiences | Very good |
| Meeting learning needs | Good |
| The curriculum | Good |
| Improvement through self-evaluation | Good |

Authority Commentary

This is a very good report and reflects the high quality of provision at Jack 'n' Jill Pre-school Centre & Out of School Care.