



Orchard Park Nursery Standards and Quality Report Session 2012/2013

Context:

Orchard Park Nursery provides care and delivers curriculum based education for children aged from six weeks to five years. The capacity for the nursery is 44 children per day with 16 in the 3–5 room, 16 in the 2–3 room and 12 babies every day.

The nursery is staffed by one head teacher/manager, one assistant manager, 3 full time supervisors, 4 full time practitioners, 1 part time practitioner, 1 play worker, 1 modern apprentice, one cook and one cleaner.

We also work closely with relevant agencies when it is needed such as child physiologists etc.

We have close relationships with our parents who help us self evaluate and comment regularly. We have a well established parents association with nearly 30 members who communicate through an online forum.

We have a good relationship with local schools which our children progress onto and communicate with on the run up to graduation.

At Orchard Park Nursery we aim to:

- ~ treat all children, parents and carers with dignity and respect at all times
- ~ provide all children with the opportunity to enjoy a full range of social relationships
- ~ respect children's privacy and to be able to utilise the nursery free from unnecessary intrusion
- ~ provide a curriculum consistent with guidelines which are broad, balanced and responsive to the children's needs and development.
- ~ consult with parents/ carers, to support children in reaching their full potential in all aspects of their development and learning.
- ~ Through play and positive reinforcement, encourage each child to develop the skills necessary for good citizenship

~ provide a welcoming environment which reflects equality, fairness and fosters partnership with parents and wider community.

~ provide high quality resources, well organised to support effective care and education.

~ ensure an effective staff team who strive to continually develop the quality of service we provide.

~ value all children for themselves.

2011 – 2012 Improvement plan priorities:

Strategic priorities	Short term outcome	Current targets
Delivery of Education	<p>To improve the children's experiences in all aspects of their development and learning.</p> <p>To improve the quality of teaching in order to achieve better learning.</p> <p>To fully embed all aspects of Curriculum for Excellence.</p> <p>To fully embed more rigorous approaches to self-evaluation</p>	<p>1. To improve children's literacy and numeracy through use of the outdoor learning area and the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence.</p> <p>2. To develop and implement a monitoring sheet for each area.</p>
Partnerships and Resources	<p>To create and maintain successful partnerships with agencies in order to improve children's experiences.</p>	<p>3. To maintain nursery website for parents to provide feedback and create opportunities for parents to learn about both curriculums.</p>
Leadership	<p>To ensure that the establishment is staffed by a suitably qualified workforce.</p>	<p>4. To support and motivate team members through monitoring, self evaluation and a new appraisal format.</p>

Progress, Impact and Outcomes

The children have continued to maintain a high level of attainment over the past year. Staff have worked very well with their own groups and have assessed and tracked children to effectively plan activities and learning experiences to meet their needs.

We are able to see how the children are progressing through the children's development profiles. After our recent HMIE inspection we are now in the process of changing these profiles to an electronic format. The profiles celebrate children's achievements and their progress and can clearly show their development as they go through the nursery. The reports are an effective way of monitoring the child's performance and informing parents of development, achievements, issues and overall progress.

The children are highly motivated in the areas of literacy and numeracy and use their interests to help them have deep meaningful learning. The children use our outdoor classroom to help sustain a high level of interest in the areas of literacy and numeracy. The outdoor environment has helped spark a real interest in learning and children respond well to the activities which they help staff to plan for.

The children celebrate their achievement through wall displays and group times. Children have their very own notice board situated at their own height where they choose what is displayed. This can be art work, photographs, writing or certificates from home and nursery. The children also have an achievement wall where they display certificates from charity events, competitions and also stick their names on starts with what they have achieved. The children have regular group times where good behaviour and achievements are celebrated and awards can be given. Staff encourage acknowledgement of even the smallest of achievements.

Staff are now confident in using A Curriculum for Excellence and are currently working on a new planning format incorporating the outcomes and experiences which are imbedded within our nursery continuously.

At Orchard Park Nursery we know it is very important to recognise and celebrating achievement. We do this in a variety of ways. Achievements are included in children's profiles and shared with parents and the

children themselves. The staff have good communication with parents and ask about achievements out with nursery which are also celebrated at news time etc.

The children celebrated coming runner up in a St Andrew's day competition where their work was displayed in Hollyrood.

We also participated in many fundraising activities. Some include: children in need, red nose day, momentum and barnardoes. The children had a large role in the organisation of these fundraisers by making idea suggestions, helping with advertisement and helped to count the money. They celebrated their achievements by making comments for the newsletter, displaying the certificates on their achievements wall as well as every child receiving a responsible citizen award.

Areas for improvement

To implement a more rigorous approach to responsive planning and encouraging staff to extend areas of the curriculum through all areas of the room. They will also have to use responsive planning effectively to do this.

We have recently implemented a monitoring sheet to areas within the play room but we would like to review the effectiveness of this.

How well do we meet the needs of our stakeholders? (2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2)

Progress, Impact and Outcomes

Children's experiences 2.1, 2.2

Our children are engaged and highly motivated through our Curriculum and most if not all children interact well during activities. Children have access to plan and initiate their own learning experiences and staff encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning.

Children have been learning walls which enables both them and their parents to view their work and gives the children the opportunity time for them to reflect on what they have been learning.

The children have evaluated reviewed each learning area and have discussed how best to take their learning into the out door environment. With the development of the outdoor woodland area children have been able to take their learning across the curriculum and into the other areas. Children have used their interests when outside to create activities where they can make decisions, solve problems and develop their own independence successfully.

Children have had opportunities to use a large range of technology in both play and learning. Children have enjoyed using digital camera's to capture their own images and print them. They have been able to use modern technology such as i pads to create images and videos as well as play educational games. The children have access to the internet to help select new activities and ideas of play. The children also enjoyed recording their voices and listening to them being changed higher or lower. Overall the new opportunities for using technology has enabled the children to experience a whole world of ideas they had not before. They have learned about turn taking, teamwork as well as exploring the technology itself. Overall this has enabled the children to become very confident individuals.

As Orchard Park Nursery takes children from six weeks through to school, we have a very strong transition technique. Children are eased into the three to five room through regular short visits with their key worker. New children are encouraged to make regular visits to the nursery over the course of a week with their parents to ensure a smooth settling period.

As the children moving into the three to five room are very young, we hope to improve learning experiences with the older children to allow them to have the best possible learning and not distracted by the younger children's transition time which can sometimes be disruptive to their learning.

Children at our setting are well supported by individual learning plans. Children needing extra support are identified by staff through careful communication with parents, observations and assessment. Relevant agencies are invited to the centre if needed.

Engagement of staff 3.1

The staff at Orchard Park Nursery are highly committed and motivated. All staff have commented that they feel valued by the nursery and that they are committed to promoting the centres vision, values and aims.

Staff have been attending training through East Renfrewshire Councils CPD training. They have also been participating in workshops on behaviour management, outdoor learning and curriculum document discussions. All practitioners are fully qualified and we have one apprentice who is training through TIGERS training courses. We have two members of staff who are currently at different stages of their BA Childhood practise course. The staff at Orchard Park Nursery are all keen to progress in their career by participating in courses and CPD.

Staff views are taken into account by management and other staff. We have a staff comment and request folder where staff can air their views or request specific resources.

Staff all participate in peer evaluation and observation. They each take turns to observe each member of staff on a rotational basis and then discuss at meetings on a monthly basis. This works on two stars and a wish scheme which all staff are very receptive of and the scheme appears to be working well.

Engagement of Parents

Over the past year Orchard Park Nursery has been working very hard to increase the amount of parental involvement.

We have an online Parents association where parents can help giving their opinions and ideas for fundraising. These ideas are then used for open days and other events. Parents views are taken into consideration and answered on the forum.

Parents views are sought after through our parents suggestion box. This is situated at the parents wall and parents can take a slip and post into the parents box anonymously. These views are then answered in the newsletter or to the parent directly if they have chosen to leave their name.

Questionnaires are used to gather information on a wide variety of issues from care and wellbeing of children, management and staff. We had good feedback from our recent questionnaire and received a high number of questionnaires returned, 100% of the answers were positive and many left positive comments.

We also have a travelling Ted and story bags which are sent home on a regular basis. This gives children and their parents to be involved with the nursery by sharing their news and what they have been doing. This is then used to form discussion with the children in the room.

Parents are welcomed to the nursery regularly to participate in our various visiting activities. These include story readings, dance class, zoo lab and bunny and co. parents are encouraged to join in with all the children and many find it rewarding.

Parents are also invited to use their talents to teach the children. We have a few active parents who have taken up baking with the children once a week and also have a local librarian parents who comes to the nursery once a week for a story reading session

We have two annual parents meeting where we discuss the children's development and their life at nursery with the parents. We also give the parents the opportunity to experience activities such as 'Sticky kids' and gloop.

Parents are informed of their child's day through daily sheets and through feedback. Orchard Park prides itself in the communication it has with the parents and time is made at the end of every day to discuss the child's day and any issues or news.

Parents are also kept informed of their child's development through work being sent home regularly. They also receive their profiles and reports on a monthly basis.

How Good is our leadership? (9.1 9.2 9.3 9.4)

Evaluation 5

Progress, Impact and Outcomes

Leadership in Orchard Park Nursery is very good. The staff and management are highly committed meaning that it is easy to motivate and inspire the team.

Staff are involved in both the improvement plan for the 3–5 room and for the under 3's. The staff participate in self evaluation for both their own rooms and for then nursery as a whole. The staff are passionate about the long term improvement of the nursery and their views are valued and included.

Specific staff take on main roles to ensure that the improvement plans are put into place. All staff members have a specific responsibility in the on going long term improvement of Orchard Park Nursery. This has had a positive impact on the centre. With each member of staff contributing a small part, the overall task is more achievable.

There are many opportunities for staff within Orchard Park to develop their Leadership skills. We have three supervisors and of which one has enrolled on the BA childhood practice course. Each of the other staff members are encouraged to further their development not only in local authority run courses but other external workshops such as those provided at Cardonlad college.

The two to three room staff are now collectively the Eco schools co-ordinators and as a result we now have an improved recycling procedure with recycle area, vegetable plot, we look after local animal welfare and keep the nursery and it's garden clean and tidy. We work with Woodfarm high school to reduce litter and raise awareness.

Staff have also participated in local events such as our visit to Woodfarm High school in relation to Eco-schools. This involved a few staff members and children doing a discussion to S1–S3 pupils on their litter dropping outside the nursery and started and 'let's bin it' campaign. This was very successful and secured good links with the school and our nursery.

Staff participate eagerly in their on CPD opportunities and this has included some great opportunities to develop leadership skills. Through appraisals and peer evaluations we have been able to identify good practise and allow the employees to visit other rooms and demonstrate their skills.

In Orchard Park Nursery the children also have a wide range of ways to participate in leadership. Opportunities to become a helper or messenger allows children to have responsibility and promote the four capacities.

Areas for Improvement

We would like to improve of leadership within Orchard Park by encouraging more staff to enrol on courses such as the BA childhood practise and continue to encourage staff to demonstrate good practise to others.

We would also like to ensure that all staff members have a more lead role in the planning of the improvement plan of the nursery and that they continue to work towards excellence.

What is our capacity for improvement?

Orchard Park Nursery has a very good capacity for improvement. We have the nurseries vision, values and aims provide a clear and precise guide for us to continue planning for our improvement,

We work closely with each other and share practice as well as look to external agencies for extra support in areas we are unsure of.

We hope to work more closely with other nurseries to identify other areas for development and help to streamline procedures in accordance with other nurseries.

We use our improvement plan to set our priorities for the future of Orchard Park Nursery

Improvement Priorities 2012 –2013

- To establish outdoor learning approaches in partnership with parents.
- To promote the health and wellbeing of children through increased contact with the natural world
- To enhance arrangements for assessment in numeracy and literacy skills to improve learning and teaching and raise attainment
- To plan challenging experiences using the experiences, outcomes and framework from Curriculum for Excellence.