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THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Ratho Nursery Class

A Curious, Creative Community

Nurturing the Learning Adventure

How are we making our nursery better?

A summary for Families and Carers

2024/2025

How did we improve our nursery in session 2023/2024?

Welcome

At Ratho ELC, we are committed to creating a nurturing and stimulating environment where every child feels secure, included and inspired to learn. This summary outlines how we've grown as a setting over the past year and what we aim to achieve moving forward. We have worked hard to improve learning experiences, build strong partnerships with families, and prepare for an exciting move to our new nursery building.

You Said, We Did

Here's how we've responded to your feedback:

You Said	We Did
You wanted to be more involved in shaping our nursery's vision, values, and aims.	We surveyed parents and will be working together to refresh our Vision, Values & Aims in the new nursery. Look out for opportunities to get involved!
You wanted clearer ways to engage with your child's learning.	We are improving Learning Journals, making them more interactive, and will provide support sessions for parents. We are also developing a new, more interactive newsletter format.
You wanted more ways to be part of nursery life.	We're introducing more Stay & Play sessions, inviting families to contribute skills (e.g., storytelling, gardening), and making parent consultations more flexible to increase attendance.

You Said	**We Did**
You were concerned about transitions, especially for children with additional needs.	We are developing a detailed transition plan for the move to the new nursery, including social stories, building visits, and additional support for children with additional needs.

To make our nursery better, we planned to improve the following things last year…..

Support for move to new building & Review Vison, Values & Aim	✓ Children are included in progress and plans for move to new nursery building. ✓ Children and parents are involved in reviewing the nursery's vision, values and aims.
Settling into New Building **Focus on Literacy Skills**	✓ Children are supported to move and settle into the new nursery building. ✓ Provide a wide range of literacy resources and experiences to develop and challenge children's literacy skills.
Smooth transitions to new building **Embed understanding of Children's Rights**	✓ Children and parents will experience a smooth and timely transition from old to new building. ✓ Children will understand and be able to confidently identify the rights that they are entitled to.

Key Improvements This Year

Leadership and Quality Improvement

Staff have continued to reflect on practice and provision, using self-evaluation tools such as Education Scotland's and the Care Inspectorate's frameworks. This helps us plan and implement changes based on observations, feedback, and children's needs.

Staff took part in professional learning (CLPL) throughout the year to support inclusive and high-quality learning experiences for all children.

Supporting our Pupils in Development of Literacy and Communication

We introduced a Learning Wall to celebrate achievements and show how learning is progressing. A new planning cycle helps staff plan intentionally while also responding to children's interests and needs.

Our Gather Times have been enhanced with a clear focus on literacy development—using songs, rhymes, stories and shared talk to support vocabulary and understanding. Opportunities for mark-making and storytelling are now embedded across the setting.

Supporting Children's Rights and Parental Engagement

Children continue to explore their rights and responsibilities through experiences and discussion, supported by visual aids and everyday interactions. Staff are using consistent strategies to support emotional regulation (e.g., visual aids, sand timers, and quiet spaces). We meet weekly to review each child's progress and adjust support where needed. Outdoor learning and free play have been prioritised, ensuring children spend more time exploring and learning in nature.

Families have been welcomed into the setting for Stay & Play sessions, story times, consultations, and more. We've introduced flexible consultation slots and improved communication through interactive Learning Journals and updated newsletters.

Creating a Safe & Nurturing Environment

Preparing for the New Nursery Building

The new building will offer space for 64 children and be open all year from 8am-6pm.

We are introducing building visits and social stories to help children adjust.

Additional staff are being recruited to support the larger setting and new routines.

Improvement Priorities for Session 2024/2025

Smooth Transition to new building & Review Vison, Values & Aim	✓ Children and families will be supported with a smooth and well-planned transition into the new space. ✓ Familiar routines and resources will be maintained to help children feel secure in their new environment. ✓ Leadership roles will be adapted to meet the needs of a larger setting and growing team.
Focus on Communication and Literacy	✓ Staff will further develop knowledge of how children's language and literacy progress, ensuring all children have the best start in early communication. ✓ The nursery will introduce more interactive book reading sessions, song and rhyme experiences, and well-planned opportunities for children to explore books and mark-making.
Increase parental engagement in the children's learning and the life of the setting within our new building.	✓ Families will be involved in reviewing and refreshing our nursery's Vision, Values, and Aims to reflect our growing and evolving community. ✓ Increased opportunities for parents to participate in Learning Journals, storytelling, and special nursery events will be offered. ✓ Parent consultations and communication will be improved to encourage greater involvement in children's learning and progress.

What We've Focused on — Last Year and This Year

We are always working to make our nursery the best it can be. Here's how our key priorities from last year have progressed, and what we're focusing on this year:

Focus Area	2023–2024: What We Did	2024–2025: What We're Doing
📦 **Transition to New Building**	Prepared children with building visits, social stories, and clear plans.	Supporting all children and families with a smooth move into the new nursery, while maintaining familiar routines.
🌟 **Vision, Values & Aims**	Gathered parent feedback through surveys to begin the refresh.	Collaborating with families to co-create updated Vision, Values & Aims.
📖 **Literacy and Communication**	Enhanced Gather Times, mark-making, and interactive storytelling.	Deepening staff knowledge of the stages of literacy and communication development and enhancing literacy opportunities across the setting.
👩‍👧 **Parental Engagement**	Increased Stay & Play sessions and flexible parent consultations.	Offering more family-led events, Learning Journal support, and better communication.
💚 **Wellbeing and Children's Rights**	Embedded emotional regulation tools and supported understanding of rights.	Continuing nurturing universal and targeted strategies, with regular reviews and appropriate supports.

Looking Ahead :

This year is a significant one for our community as we settle into a new building and grow together as a team and learning community. Your voice, your child's experiences, and our shared values will continue to shape the journey ahead. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We are proud to nurture the learning adventure together.