



## **Partnership with Perth and Kinross to deliver high quality Early Learning and Childcare**

Perth and Kinross Council is currently in partnership with 37 centres from the independent, private and voluntary sector to deliver high quality Early Learning and Childcare to children in their pre-school and ante pre-school years. These successful partnerships have been on-going for many years with centres enjoying extensive support and challenge from local authority officers and teachers.

Expectations of both partners and the local authority are detailed in a formal contract which is renewed on an annual basis. The authority has procedures in place to withdraw from any contract should the partner centre fail to meet the terms and conditions set out in the contract. Ongoing support and challenge is detailed within the Centre Improvement Framework documentation.

In past years opportunities to enter into new partnerships were more limited. However, with the **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014** Perth and Kinross Council welcomes the opportunity to extend our range of partnerships with centres across Perth and Kinross.

A major implication of the Act is that eligible children aged three to five years are entitled to 600 hours of Early Learning and Childcare with a focus on flexibility and choice for parents.

In order to increase the range of provision for parents in localities across Perth and Kinross, it was agreed at the Lifelong Learning Committee of 6 October 2013 to extend opportunities to centres that can demonstrate they provide high quality Early Learning and Childcare and who wish to apply for partnership with the Council.

Centres that may be interested in learning more about applying for partnership with the Council should contact Education and Children's Services on 01738 476200 to request our *Steps to becoming a Partner Provider* document which outlines the process. However it must be stressed that making an application does not necessarily guarantee a successful outcome.