



# **NEWSLETTER**

# ELC Newsletter, Issue 37, January 2025

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# Quality improvement framework for early learning and childcare sectors

Joint statement from the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland on our progress towards the delivery of the new Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors

We are delighted to announce that the new <u>Quality improvement</u> <u>framework for the early learning and childcare sectors</u> is now available on the Education Scotland website.

We have collated the most <u>frequently asked questions (FAQs)</u> we have received about the new framework. These are available on the Care Inspectorate website and on the Education Scotland website. We hope that you find these helpful. We will continue to listen to feedback and may make further adjustments to the framework and to the FAQs ahead of full implementation from September 2025.

## Opportunities to get involved

Following our successful engagement sessions in November 2024, attended by more than 2,600 practitioners, we will be hosting more of these in the coming months. We hope that providers will welcome these opportunities to engage with inspectors to become familiar with the new framework and support self-evaluation.

You may wish to begin to use the new quality framework to support self-evaluation in your setting now, however you may prefer to continue to use existing frameworks until you are more familiar with the content. We will continue to provide regular updates on the framework on social media and through our provider updates.

Developing new approaches to inspections using the framework
We have already begun to engage and listen to the views of
stakeholders about the development of new approaches to inspection

using the framework.

As part of this engagement, we will pilot the use of the new framework and its quality indicators in some settings from February to March 2025. We will work closely with our stakeholders during this pilot phase and listen carefully to your views as we develop approaches to inspection.

We will continue to **use our existing frameworks and approaches** for inspection while the new approaches are developed, ahead of **implementation in September 2025**. The 18-month gap between Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspections will also remain in place.

Thank you for your continued dedication to providing the best possible learning environments for children and for your support for the development of the new framework so far. We very much value your continued engagement with us as we continue this important work.



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# NHS Tayside CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Parent Portal

NHS Tayside are excited to update you with the news that **The NHS Tayside CAMHS Neurodevelopmental Parent Portal** is now open to all.

The Portal is a valuable resource for parents and carers of children with neurodevelopmental differences, offering expert advice, practical strategies, and useful tools to help families in understanding and supporting their child. They've created a space where parents can find trusted information on:

- Understanding neurodevelopmental differences
- Strategies for everyday challenges
- Access to relevant resources

NHS Tayside believe this platform is a great asset to your work with families, and alongside our online courses (see attached flyer) is

helping to empower parents and carers as they navigate their child's journey.

Don't worry if you have supported a family previously to access the portal by requesting a code, they will still be able to use their access code to log in as normal, without the need to create a new account.

Please feel free to share this resource with families you support, using this short video <a href="https://youtu.be/XRiZWqFUEig">https://youtu.be/XRiZWqFUEig</a> and attached flyer, and encourage them to visit the site at <a href="https://www.nhstaysidecamhs.co.uk">www.nhstaysidecamhs.co.uk</a>.



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# Safe management of the environment

#### **Cleaning Equipment**

Cleaning equipment used should be disposable or, if reusable, disinfected after each use. Keep all cleaning equipment well maintained, for example check and change vacuum cleaner filters regularly.

Do not refill spray containers for cleaning products as there is a risk of contamination. This is because the tube and pump elements cannot be effectively cleaned and dried which may lead to bacterial growth and therefore, a risk of contamination.

Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - version 1 - Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - Publications - Public Health Scotland

# Infection Control – Cleaning Supplies

The cleaning supplies available on PECOS have been updated to a different brand.

All cleaning supplies used in ELC settings must conform to at least EN1276 for use within kitchen areas as per the Food safety Toolkit, and you are encouraged to use disinfectant that offers a higher level of protection from infection within your toilet and nappy changing areas where the risk is highest. This enhanced protection is indicated by higher EN numbers listed on the bottle e.g. EN13697. The enhanced cleaner is also the preferred option for use for cleaning of bodily fluids

in the setting, or to support enhanced cleaning of resources during an outbreak of illness amongst the children or staff.

The use of perfumed disinfectant can cause taint transfer and is not recommended for use within the ELC setting.



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# **Celebrate Success**

# **Congratulations to St Madoes ELC!**

**Emotion Works Bronze Award** 





The team at St Madoes recently received their Bronze Emotion Works award which recognised staff training, goal setting and commitment to the Emotion Works programme.

Our children have been introduced to Emotion Works and have responded positively. We began by modifying our registration system to allow the children to express how they are feeling on arrival to nursery each day. Initially, the children made personalised spoons which were displayed for them to place in the corresponding jar. Each jar showcases emotion pictures representing feelings such as sad, happy, tired, grumpy, excited, and calm, allowing children to select their current emotion. Upon arrival at the nursery each morning, the children place their spoon in the appropriate jar.

We later expanded this area to enhance accessibility and included photos of the children displaying various facial expressions, along with drawings, posters, and emotion pebbles for exploration. A selection of books, including "Happy in My Skin," "I Feel Frightened," and "If You're Happy and You Know It," are available for the children to explore. The children and staff have been engaging with all these resources to enhance their understanding of emotions and their effect on our body.



As a result, the children are becoming more expressive about their feelings, sharing what has influenced their emotions and how their bodies respond. They are enhancing their descriptive language skills and vocabulary. In addition to these activities, we introduced an "Emotion of the Fortnight." We also participate in an emotion hunt, where we search for different emotion cards hidden throughout the nursery.

We have shared with parents some of the work that the children have been taking part in, in Nursery (particularly the emotional check-in) and encouraged parents to have similar conversations with their child at home.

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Emotion Works COGmas2024 Early Learning Winners
- Methven ELC, Invergowrie ELC, and Stanley ELC



**Congratulations to Methven ELC!** 

Kirsteen Blackhall and the team at Methven ELC were Emotion Works winners twice last month for their favourite Emotion Works displays/decorations and their favourite COGmas creations. COGmas Activity – Pass the parcel/charades game:



We enlarged a few emotion words symbols, placing them in a parcel. The children passed the parcel around the circle until the music stopped. The child holding the parcel opened it up and looked at the symbol on the top, making the expression on their face e.g. surprised, happy etc. and the other children had to guess the feeling they were acting out.

Some children were then able to say why they might react surprised, happy etc when opening a present. The children all really engaged and enjoyed this activity.

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# **Congratulations to Invergowrie ELC!**



Louise McKenzie and the team at Invergowrie ELC were also Emotion Works winners last month...

At Invergowrie Nursery we wanted to create a cheerful place for children to continue to learn in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We used the Emotion works programme to explore the cogs and use the foundation language to create arts and crafts. Children created a gingerbread man chain which highlighted the children's emotions about Christmas, staff also described to children how they were feeling.



We used the emotion works symbols to explore all the cogs and choose relevant ones to stick onto baubles to decorate the Christmas tree in our chill out space. A poster was also created by the children to highlight their feelings about the festivities.

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# **Congratulations to Stanley ELC!**





## **Our COGmas Christmas Tree**

Stanley PS had a Christmas tree festival at the end of November, and the ELC team created a COGmas tree. The team incorporated the orange, red, yellow, blue, and green cogs to create paper chains after chatting with the children about how they felt about Christmas.

These paper chains looked at feelings, body sensations, behaviours, triggers, and regulation strategies. We then created cog baubles (printing each child's face and sticking them on to the baubles). The children were quite familiar with the body sensations and the feelings, and there was lots of discussion about how this relates to them and their families.

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# **Celebrating Success in Early Mathematics**

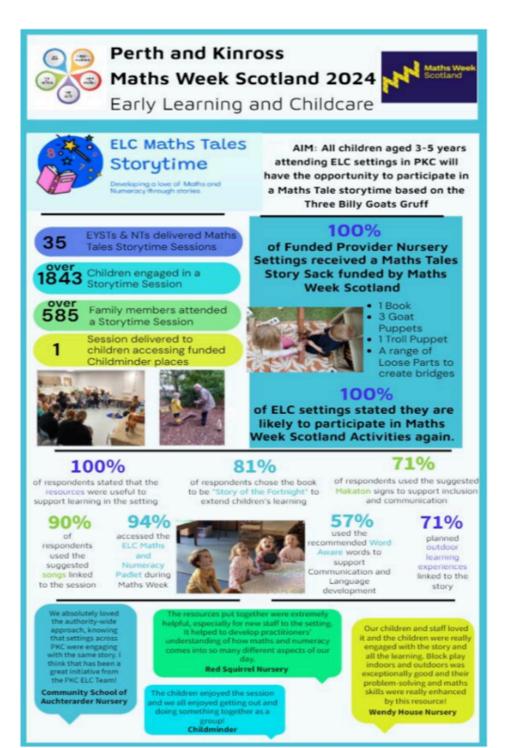
Acquiring basic maths and numeracy skills through stories, songs and rhymes has long been evidenced as an effective approach to building number sense and confidence in our youngest learners. With this in mind, plans were made by the Early Years Team to deliver in-person maths based Storytime Sessions to over 1840 nursery aged children in Perth and Kinross as part of the 2024 Scottish Government backed 'Maths Week Scotland'. Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive, some of which is shared in the infographic below. The Early Years team now wish to extend thanks to all those who participated in delivering fun, engaging sessions across Perth and Kinross, with the aim of raising the profile of early maths and numeracy for our children and families.







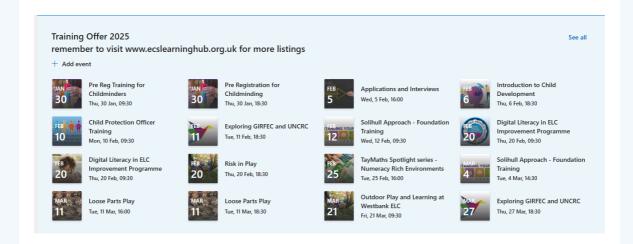




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**Training Offer** 



Please remember to visit the ECS Learning Hub for all listings of the Training Offer 2025.

Visit the ECS Learning Hub



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# **Evening and Saturday First Aid Training**

Emergency First Aid at Work (including Emergency Paediatric First Aid)
Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 - 9:30pm North Inch Community Campus

Emergency First Aid at Work (including Emergency Paediatric First Aid)
Saturday, March 22, 2025, 9:30am-4pm, Perth & Kinross Council Friarton Depot Training Room 2 Friarton Depot Perth PH2 8DF

Places are limited, these are in addition to the courses advertised on the Education and Learning Hub.

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# **Support to Access Award Bearing Qualifications**

This year from April 2024 to present 40 professionals working in the Early Years and Childcare sector have been supported financially to access a range of qualifications to enable registration or maintain registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

These have included

- 21 professionals undertaking BA in Childhood Practice units
- 19 Professionals undertaking SVQ level 3, Social Services (Children and Young People)

Application for this funding will close on Friday 7 February 2025, if you plan to start a qualification before March 2025, then please visit our website to apply. No applications will be accepted after this date.

More information

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### **Child Protection Officer Network Sessions**

CPO Network is available to attend for any <u>trained</u> Child Protection Officers. The next session is 10th March 10am -12.30pm online.

#### Please see agenda

- SCRA input
- RASAC input around early intervention offer for primary and Gender Based Violence
- · Safer schools digital resilience
- School Nurse attending re questions and updates
- National and local updates

# Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 385 756 903 988

Passcode: 3tX79kd2

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**Child Impact Assessment Video** 



A short video regarding the introduction of the Child Impact Assessment (CIA) Toolkit in Perth and Kinross.

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# New Continuous Professional Learning Opportunity for Practitioners Working with Children Under Three!

The Early Years Team is delighted to announce the launch of a new termly 0-3 Practitioner Network designed for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) staff working primarily with children under the age of three. The network is open to staff from local authority, partner provider and childminding settings.

Join us for our first meeting on MS Teams, from 3.15-4.15pm on Tuesday, 4th March. For more details and to sign up, visit the <u>ECS</u> <u>Learning Hub - Curriculum and Pedagogy</u>.

Facilitated by experienced early years support teachers and early years officers, this network aims to provide:

- A platform for professional discussions and sharing of experiences with other 0-3 practitioners.
- Continuous professional learning activities focused on relevant local and national policy and practice guidance.

Our goal is to empower you to apply new learning from the network into your daily work with children and families.

The first session is your opportunity to shape the network by sharing what topics you want to explore further. Whether there's a particular area of interest you would like to hear more about, or themes from our 0-3 Being Me in PKC training that you'd like to delve into, this is your chance to influence the direction of our new network!

Remember, attending the network and putting into practice what you have learned, can count towards your Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) requirement. Click here to plan your annual CPL pathway.

Sign up now and be a part of the 0-3 Practitioner Network

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# **Solihull Approach Foundation Training**

The Solihull Approach is a framework which helps provide a practical way of working with and supporting families. It aims to increase the emotional health and wellbeing of children and their families, ensuring children have a good emotional start in life whilst supporting parents in a creative and consistent approach. The Solihull Approach helps parents process their own emotions and anxieties allowing them to cope and focus more clearly on how to assist their children's emotions, anxieties and behaviours.

## **Training Group 5**

- 3 hour e-learning, this should be completed before attending the first session, this can be completed in segments.
- Session 1 12th February 2025 9.30-16.30 in person session,
   Coupar Angus PS
- 1 hour learning to be completed before session 2.
- Session 2 27th February 2025 18.00-21.00 virtual MS Teams

### **Training Group 6**

- 3 hour e-learning this should be completed before attending the first session, this can be completed in segments.
- Session 1 4th March 2025 14.30 17.30 in person session,
   Perth Grammar School
- 1.5 hour learning to be completed before session 2.
- Session 2 11th March 14.30-16.00 virtual MS Teams

- 1.5 hour =learning to be completed before session 3.
- Session 3 18th March 14.30-16.00 virtual MS Teams

#### **Training Group 7**

- Session 1 7th April 2025 9.30-16.30 in person session, Perth Grammar School
- 1 hour learning to be completed before session 2.
- Session 2 10th April 9.30 16.30 in person session, Perth Grammar School

#### **Training Group 8**

- 3 hour e-learning, this should be completed before attending the first session, this can be completed in segments.
- Session 1 13th May 2025 9.30-16.30 in person session, Venue TBC
- 1 hour learning to be completed before session 2.
- Session 2 28th May 2025 18.00-21.00 virtual MS Teams

#### Aims:

- 1. to introduce practitioners to the Solihull Approach model as applied to working with babies, young children, young people and their families.
- 2. to introduce practitioners to the developmental effects of childhood trauma in relation to working with children and their families.
- 3. to introduce a model for understanding the impact of relationships on health and wellbeing and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on health and wellbeing.

#### **Outcomes:**

- 1. Practitioners will be more confident to support children, young people and their families.
- 2. Practitioners will be more aware of the impact of trauma.
- 3. Practitioners will have an effective and consistent approach across agencies as a shared framework.

**Book now** 

# Care Inspectorate

# **Annual returns are open**

This year's annual returns will be available for all ELC Settings and childminders to complete between 6 January and 2 March 2025.

#### How long will it take?

Your annual return should take around 30 minutes to complete.

#### What do you need before you start?

There is some information you should have to hand when you start completing your annual return. These are:

- your registration information
- the number of children you look after
- the ages of the children you look after
- any additional support needs any children have. E.g. speech and language difficulties
- any training records or certificates
- any complaint records.

The annual return must be completed electronically using our online **eForms** system. Even if your service is inactive, you must still submit an annual return.

### Contact centre late night opening

Some services have told us it can be difficult to get in touch with the Care Inspectorate during usual contact centre opening hours. This year, they are opening late every Thursday between 16:00 -**19:00** during the annual return period.

The contact centre will still be open for all queries from services Monday to Friday 09:00 – 16:00.

Further information and guidance about annual returns is available on the CI website.













# Early learning and childcare improvement programme review 2024-25

Care Inspectorate have just published the yearly review of their **ELC** Improvement Programme.

The overarching aim of the ELC improvement programme is to support funded settings across Scotland to improve the quality of ELC and meet the National Standard. The programme focuses on providing targeted support for those settings currently, or at risk of, not meeting the National Standard through a programme of sessions and peer support opportunities.

This review looks at the work undertaken by the programme team during 2024-2025 and provides recommendations to the Scottish Government to inform future funding decisions about the value and future potential of the programme.

You can find the review and all the ELC Improvement Programme resources on The Hub.











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# Kids Clubs In-service day and February holidays

Are you looking for childcare on the in service day Wednesday 12th February or the mid-term holidays Thursday 13th February and Friday 14th February.

The following Kids Clubs and WAC are open from 8am -6pm Oakbank

Blair

Milnathort

Letham

Inchview (closed Wednesday 12 February)

Pitlochry (closed Wednesday 12 February)

St Dominic

Luncarty

For details on how to book please see Kids Clubs on Perth & Kinross Council Website.

If you have not registered your child with Kids Clubs there is still time, once registered you can book your child's place.

Visit Kids Clubs on Perth & Kinross Council Website.





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# P&K Active Schools School Sport Training Calendar



Monday 17th Feb 2025 4:00 – 6:00 pm @ Glenearn Campus	This Cricket Coaching CPD session will cover all the basics you need to know for delivering cricket to beginner level school children. Louis and Reg from the Live Active Cricket Development team will run through a number of drills and games you can use with classes.  These games will involve the three core skills of cricket: batting, bowling and fielding,  Point of contact: Louis Gallagher, LGallagher@liveactive.co.uk	BOOK HERE	
Tuesday 18th Feb 2025 4:00 - 6:00 pm @ Crieff High School	An introductory shinty coaching session to facilitate basic delivery to Primary or Secondary pupils, aimed at volunteers coaching rugby within Perth & Kinross Schools.  The session will cover different accessible, fun and informative activities that will have enjoyment and technical shinty development at their core.  All activities, games and drills will be easy to follow and replicate for those who are new to shinty coaching or for those looking for session ideas.  Point of contact: Nick Keiller, nkeiller@liveactive.co.uk	BOOK HERE	
Primary: Mon 24th Feb 2025 4:30-6pm @ Glenearn Community Campus	Primary: Netball specific training for any teachers or volunteer coaches looking to take extra-curricular primary school sessions. Will cover introduction to netball drills for pupils such as distance rule, passing drills, and tips on inclusion of all pupils and details of the primary league and festival running this academic year (2024/25).  Point of contact: Rachael Bell, RBell@liveactive.co.uk	BOOK HERE	
Wednesday 5th March 2025 4:30 – 6:00pm © Venue TBC (Perth)	This session will focus on developing fundamental movement skills, balance, coordination and gross/ fine motor skills. It will also consider different methods of beginning and developing choreographed dance pieces and explore using various dance styles.  Point of contact: Catriona Fairlie, CFairlie@liveactive.co.uk	BOOK HERE	
Monday 31st March 2025 4:30 – 7:30pm Berth Park High School	The Run, Jump, Throw course has been designed to place running, jumping and throwing at the heart of school physical education and to support teachers and volunteers in delivering athletics activities in an inclusive, exciting and engaging manner. Within each course section teachers/volunteers will find: Two examples of Schemes of Work, two blocks of six-week Lesson Plans, Over 20 Activity Cards covering progressions of running, jumping and throwing activities, information on how to measure a pupil's progression and improvement.  Point of contact: Cath Devanny, CDevanny@ilveactive.co.uk	BOOK HERE	
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The P&K Active Schools School Sport Training Calendar is open to school sport adult volunteers, PKC teaching staff and senior pupils. The courses are an opportunity to gain further knowledge and content to teach sport specific games and activities to children. Teaching staff can use the training opportunities towards CLPL hours.









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# **Boost Your Childcare Skills with Numeracy Training!**



Numeracy skills are essential in the childcare profession. The Multiply Project offers a course tailored to help you enhance your numeracy skills in a childcare environment. Equip yourself with the knowledge to excel in your role. If you live in the Perth and Kinross region, are aged 19 or over, and don't already have a Maths qualification at National 5, Grade C, you are eligible to take part in any of these activities. If you

are aged 16-18 and not in education, employment, or training, you are also eligible.

The Multiply Project offers a variety of courses that may be of interest:

#### Courses Offered:

- Numbers for a Career in Childcare
- Numeracy Skillsboost
- Maths Skillsboost
- Personal Finance
- Financial Skills for Small Businesses
- Numeracy for Healthcare
- Essential Numeracy for Employabilty
- Preparing for Aptitude Tests (Fire Service, Royal Navy, Police Scotland)
- Intermediate Mathematics Foundations

For further information, please visit Multiply Perth Perth & Kinross Employability Network





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#### **Perth and Kinross Council**

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