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NEWSLETTER

ELC Newsletter, Issue 41, May/June 2025

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Invergowrie Nursery Celebrates Achievement of all Three Digital Schools Awards: Digital Learning Through Play Award in Early Learning, Equitable Creative Coding Award and Digital Wellbeing Award



Invergowrie Nursery Class proudly announces its achievement in gaining three Digital Schools Awards: The Digital Learning Through Play Award in Early Learning, Equitable Creative Coding Award and Digital Wellbeing Award. The nursery are thrilled to be the first setting to receive all three awards together.

The Digital Learning Through Play Award in Early Learning

recognises and celebrates the impressive digital journey that the setting has been on. The award report highlighted that digital learning is embedded throughout the setting and is very much co-led with the children. At Invergowrie Nursery, unplugged learning and digital

technology are used to support quality learning through play which inspires children and families to access the benefits of digital learning. The use of technology helps instil a sense of community and is part of the nursery culture.

The Equitable Creative Coding Award (ECCo), recognises the innovative and inclusive approaches to computational thinking and coding. Invergowrie Nursery have invested in digital technologies to motivate and inspire, equipping children with essential skills for life and work. This has encouraged children to be curious and explore different things. There is a clear desire to lead in the embedding of film and screen across early level and support Education Scotland's commitment to this part of the expressive arts curriculum.

The Digital Wellbeing Award highlights that digital wellbeing is integrated into the vision and development work of the setting. The nursery inspires safe and responsible behaviour and shares helpful advice and support for parents and carers on e-safety. There is a strong engagement with parents and carers and this work helps parents feel empowered to support their children in safe online practices at home.

Linda McGavin Senior Early Childhood Practitioner at Invergowrie Nursery Class said: *"We are delighted to have achieved all three digital awards. This recognition holds significant importance for our Nursery and reaffirms our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement in digital learning. We aim to empower children to explore, create, and innovate in an increasingly digital world"*.

"We are grateful for the support of initiatives like the Digital Schools Awards in promoting digital learning in our settings."

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Child Protection Protocols – Cross Boundary ELC Places

The local authority boundaries of Perth and Kinross are directly neighboured with eight other local authority areas and every year children cross these boundaries to access funded ELC places according to the childcare needs and preferences of their parents and carers.

Where a setting's address is close to the border of another authority, and children are likely to attend your setting from that authority, it is best practice to have the Perth and Kinross Child Duty Team details posted and also have the home authority's child protection reporting details accessible within your setting. The local authority in which the child lives holds the duty to "promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of all children in need in their area" ([national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021-updated-2023.pdf](#), p.58).

Section 2.22 of [PKC's Code of Practice: Information Sharing, Confidentiality and Consent](#) advises practitioners must always exercise professional judgement and common sense when sharing information.

Please see the below links for further information:

- Aberdeenshire Council - [Report child protection concern - Aberdeenshire Council](#)
- Angus Council - [Child protection | Angus Council](#)
- Argyll and Bute Council - [Child Protection | Argyll and Bute Council](#)
- Clackmannanshire Council - [Child Protection](#)
- Dundee City Council [Information for professionals working with children & their families | Dundee](#)
[Child Protection Committee](#)
- Fife Council - [Child protection | Fife Council](#)
- Highland Council - [Getting it Right for Every Child & Young Person in Child Protection Procedures 2024](#)
- Stirling Council - [Report child abuse or neglect | Stirling Council](#)

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Active Schools Newsletter



Active Schools Termly Newsletter: Jan to April
(2024-25)

Headline Data

ELC Senior Practitioner Training

Huge congratulations to our latest cohort of practitioners who completed the Senior Practitioner Training in May 2025! Well done to you all!



The group attended 6 training sessions throughout the year and completed tasks between sessions to consolidate their learning and share practice with each other. The sessions included defining roles and responsibilities of a senior, becoming a pedagogical leader, quality improvement and self-evaluation and leading and managing people through change. The final session was an opportunity for the group to reflect on their learning journey throughout the programme and celebrate their successes and hard work.

Practitioners gave their feedback from the training and offered their key highlights.

“The confidence I’ve grown within my team and now within my job role”

“Learning more about myself and developing my confidence as a leader”

“Things to put in my toolbox to support change in my setting”

“Meeting new people and sharing our practices. My confidence has improved”



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Digital Learning in ELC Improvement Programme 2024-2025



Congratulations to our second cohort of practitioners who have completed the Digital Learning in ELC Improvement Programme. The group attended 3 training sessions and completed a small test of change by creating a Plan, Do, Study, Act form to share at the last session. They shared the results, progression in children’s learning and next steps for each setting involved.

Some feedback from the group highlighted:

“Getting an insight of what other settings are doing, gaining more knowledge to help my own setting. ”

“Sharing ideas with people from other settings.”

“Longer sessions. More opportunities to explore the various areas of digital learning to further understanding.”

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Middle Leadership Programme 2024 -2025

Well done and huge congratulations to the first cohort of practitioners to complete the ELC Middle Leadership Programme. The group attended various sessions over the past year to develop and support strategic leadership to ensure high quality early learning and childcare. To increase knowledge and understanding of quality improvement methodology, they completed an ELC Quality Improvement Project supported by Eve Moran (Attainment Advisor with Education Scotland).

Each practitioner focused on areas within their own improvement plans and shared their journey through 10-minute presentations at the last session. This also highlighted the impact on children and families with clear next steps for each setting.



A huge thank you to you all.

NHS TAYSIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SENSORY SUPPORTS

Evidence shows that children display their sensory differences to the people they trust the most. Therefore, the best way to support children is for those around them to have a good understanding of why these difficulties occur and what they can put in place to support the child which is why we don't tend to carry out assessments or interventions.



Instead we offer the following...



Sensory Training

We offer free training for parents/carers, schools, nurseries and other professionals who are looking to further develop their knowledge and understanding of sensory processing and how it can impact children.

You can access the training on our website; www.OTCYP.scot.nhs.uk or via our YouTube Channel.

Free Online Resources



Our Website - for links to sensory training, resources, our problem solving tool and the sensory checklist



KIDS Scotland - for more information and an excellent interactive sensory questionnaire which will self generate helpful strategies to try



Further help

If you have completed the Sensory Training and you have tried strategies from the self help tools but you are still concerned or looking for more specific advice, please get in touch.



Perth - 01738 473250

Dundee - 01382 835141

Angus - 01307 475279

Email - TAY.childhealthot@nhs.scot

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Summer Holiday Childcare Kids Clubs and Wraparound Care

SESSION 2025/26 REGISTRATIONS

New registrations are now open.

Please note that you will need to register for the new session before you can book for the summer holidays.

KIDS CLUB & WRAPAROUND CARE CHARGES FOR SESSION 2025/26

Term Time

1st Child £10.85

Additional Child/ren £10.30

Holidays and In-Service Days

Up to 5 Hours £21.10

Up to 7 Hours £23.55

Over 7 Hours £26.10

Breakfast Charges remain the same at £2.00

There will be no Registration Fee this session

TAX FREE CHILDCARE

We have been promoting Tax-free childcare to all our families, with posters in the service, articles in our newsletters and emails. Almost all families can apply, and you can receive up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

For further information on Tax Free Childcare and how to set up an account, please visit the government website: [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](#)

Tax-free childcare featured on the recent Martin Lewis money programme.

SUMMER HOLIDAY CHILDCARE

The following Kids Club and Wraparound Care Services are open from 8am - 6pm throughout the holidays.

Oakbank Kids Club

Blair Kids Club

Milnathort Kids Club

**St Dominics Wraparound Care
Luncarty Wraparound Care
Inchview Wraparound Care
Letham Wraparound Care**

Pitlochry Wraparound Care are only open for the first 3 weeks of the Summer Holidays.

For details on how to book and access the holiday planners, please see <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/kidsclubs>

Please note that Wraparound Care offer childcare for children from 3 years old to primary school age. Additionally, Children can attend any of our Kids Club starting from the Summer before they go into P1.

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Summer Holiday Fun

Our teams are running a variety of family play activities across Perth and Kinross. There will be a main session daily which is open to all families, no registration will be required. Families can turn up on the day and join in the fun. There will also be smaller group sessions in different localities which will require pre-registration in advance.

Pre-bookable Sessions

Aberfeldy
Arngask
Blair Atholl
Braco
Comrie
COPECC/Goodlyburn, Perth
Crieff
Dunkeld
Errol
FossoPLAY, Fossoway
Inchview, Perth
Kinross
Letham PS, Perth
Loch Leven Campus, Kinross
Logierait
Milnathort
North Inch, Perth

North Inch Community Campus, Perth
Pitlochry
RDM, Scone
Riverside PS, Perth
Stanley

Find out what's on and book

Free family play sessions throughout the Summer Holidays

Abernethy Park - Wednesdays 2, 16, 30 July & 13 August

Auchterarder Park - Thursdays 10, 24 July & 7 August

Blairgowrie/Rattray, Davie Park - Tuesdays 8, 22 July & 5 August

Coupar Angus, Larghan Victory Park - Tuesdays 1, 15, 29 July & 12
August

Dunkeld Playpark - Thursdays 3, 17, 31 July & 14 August

Errol Park - Wednesdays 9, 23 July & 6 August

North Inch - Fridays 4, 11, 18, 25 July & 1 & 8 August

South Inch - Mondays 30 June, 7, 14, 21, 28 July, 4 & 11 August



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Summer activities programme



ALL
WORKSHOPS
ARE
FREE

Sense of self (8-11 years)
Thursday 3rd July 10am-12pm
Drop off and pick up at **Mindspace, The Gateway, Perth**

Games afternoon (10-16 years)
Tuesday July 8th, 2pm-4pm
Drop off and pick up at **Out of this Galaxy shop, Scott St Perth, PH1 5EH**

Outdoor adventures (8-12 years)
Wednesday July 16th 10am-2pm
Drop off and pick up from **Perth Riverside Church, Bute Drive, PH1 3BG**

Outdoor adventures (8-12 years)
Tuesday July 22nd 10am-2pm
Drop off and pick up from **Perth Riverside Church, Bute Drive, PH1 3BG**

Mini Makers (8-12 years)
Monday July 28th and August 4th, 10am-12pm
Drop off and pick up from **Mindspace, The Gateway, North Methven St, Perth**

For further information or to register, please contact the team on ypteam@mindspacepk.com
Or drop into the office at The Gateway, North Methven St, Perth PH1 5PP

Summer activities programme



ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FREE

Express Yourself (12-16 years) Monday July 28th and August 4th, 2pm-4pm Drop off and pick up from MindSpace , The Gateway, North Methven st, Perth
Photography (10-16 years) Wednesday August 13th, 10am-2pm Drop off and pick up at MindSpace, North Methven St, Perth PH1 5PP

For further information or to register, please contact the team on ypteam@mindspacepk.com
 Or drop into the office at The Gateway, North Methven St, Perth PH1 5PP

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Changes to qualification conditions for SSSC registration

From June SSSC will introduce a three-year timescale for new registrants in the social care workforce to gain their qualification for registration.

This is part of our changes to registration, qualifications and skills we introduced in June 2024. However, they delayed its introduction for the

social care workforce after listening to concerns from employers and stakeholders.

[Read more](#)



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CPL CYP portal improvements benefit Scotland's children and young people workforce

SSSC have improved the Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) portal for the Early Learning and Childcare Workforce to provide better support for the workforce.

The portal supports the early learning and childcare workforce and employers with their professional development by listing training providers and learning opportunities in one directory, alongside national online modules and an induction resource.

The portal was developed in line with the Scottish Government's Early Learning and Childcare Quality Action Plan and launched in early 2024.

Minister's welcome

The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise, Natalie Don-Innes encouraged everyone working with children and young people to visit the portal, to find out how it can benefit their learning.

Talking directly to the workforce, Ms Don-Innes thanked everyone working with children and young people and recognised the challenges they face in meeting their CPL requirements.

[You can watch the Minister's full message here.](#)

What's new

Since launching new resources, learning opportunities and events have been added, as well as improving the user experience.

The portal includes:

- quality assured learning resources and events to support professional learning

- guidance to support your practice
- resources to support your wellbeing and the wellbeing of the children and young people you work with
- our National Induction Resource for people new to their role.

Visit the [Continuous Professional Learning \(CPL\) portal for the Early Learning and Childcare Workforce.](#)

Tell them what you think

SSSC welcome your feedback on the portal and how they can make further improvements to support your CPL. Please use the feedback form on the portal or you can email elcdirectory@sssc.uk.com.



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Supporting the development and progression of children's early language

If you work with children and young people and are looking to meet your continuous professional learning (CPL) requirements, why not take a look at the SSSC module on supporting the development and progression of children's early language?

The module counts towards four of your core learning elements:

- communication and relationships
- wellbeing and support
- knowledge for your role
- reflective practice.

Access it today, for free, on the CPL portal for the children and young people workforce.

[Visit the module](#)



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Keeping children safe – sharing the learning webinar

Do you work in an early years setting, out of school club, or childminder setting? If so, why not join the Care Inspectorate to develop or refresh your awareness of your role and responsibility towards keeping children safe. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar on Tuesday 17 June 19:00 - 19:45.



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Bitesize quality improvement videos

Did you know that you can view short quality improvement videos on the ELC Improvement HUB? These bite size recordings are designed to support you in making improvements using quality improvement methodology within your own service. Recordings and relevant resources are categorised under each service type, Daycare of Children, Childminders and School Aged Childcare. You can view these [here](#).



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First Aid Training Update – Non-Attendance

From 12 May 2025, the Corporate Health and Safety team will be implementing a charge of £50 for everyone who has booked a place on the First Aid course and does not attend with no prior notification of their non-attendance. This charge will be relevant to all First Aid Courses along with DSE Risk Assessment, General Risk Assessment, COSHH Risk Assessment, Incident Investigation and Ladder/Stepladder Awareness.

They have advised for a minimum cancellation period of 24 hours but in cases of sickness or unforeseen circumstances, the morning of the training is acceptable. Attendees can cancel their initial booking through their Eventbrite email notification or contact the Corporate Health and Safety team through HandSEnquiries@pkc.gov.uk.

Training places are limited, and non-attendance is a wasted resource

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Solihull Approach Refresher Course (3 Hours)

This 3-hour refresher course provides an essential recap of the Solihull Approach, reinforcing key principles and their practical application in supporting emotional well-being and relationships within educational settings. Designed for those who have previously completed Solihull training, this session revisits core concepts such as containment, reciprocity, and behaviour management, helping participants refresh their understanding and refine their practice. Through interactive discussions and real-world examples, attendees will leave feeling more confident in applying the approach effectively in their work with children, young people, and families.

Dates:

- 30/06/2025 – 9.30 – 12.30 - Perth Grammar School ([Available to book now!](#))
- 30/06/2025 – 13.30 – 16.30 – Perth Grammar School ([Available to book now!](#))

Solihull Approach in Application

This 1.5 hour interactive session is designed for professionals who have completed Solihull Approach training and want to deepen their

understanding and application in real-world settings. Solihull Approach in Practice provides a space to revisit key concepts such as containment, reciprocity, and behaviour as communication, while also encouraging shared reflection and discussion. Participants will have the opportunity to explore challenges, celebrate successes, and refine their approach through peer learning. Whether you work in education, healthcare, or social care, this session will help strengthen your confidence in embedding Solihull principles into everyday practice.

Session dates coming soon!

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PDA Education Support Assistance (Level 6)

This course runs one evening per week at the college and aims to provide a qualification for those who are currently employed as an Education Support Assistant or those who would like to take on that role. It will enable you to develop the specific skills of an Education Support Assistant and to develop knowledge of issues associated with children and young people in educational settings. It also provides you with a deeper knowledge of Additional Support Needs across a broad spectrum of specific needs and disabilities. The course includes a work experience element which can be completed either in your workplace if you are currently employed in an educational setting or through volunteer work in a similar role. This qualification meets the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) requirements for a Support Worker in a Day Care of Children Service.

Further Information including information about the cost of the programme can be found here: [PDA Education Support Assistance \(uhi.ac.uk\)](#) or contact Tracy McGregor at tracy.mcgregor.perth@uhi.ac.uk

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PDA Trauma Informed Approaches (Level 7)

This is an online course that can be studied at a time that suits you but we recommend allowing 4 hours per week to complete the learning. This PDA Trauma Informed Approaches (SCQF level 7) allows you to gain knowledge and understanding of trauma, including the causes and impact of trauma on an individual. You will also learn the importance of

being an informed practitioner, enabling you to support individuals affected by trauma.

Further Information including information about the cost of the course can be found here: [PDA Trauma Informed Approaches \(SCQF level 7\) \(uhi.ac.uk\)](#) or contact Katrina MacIntyre at katrina.macintyre.perth@uhi.ac.uk

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Support for parents/carers with potty training/toilet coaching

It was highlighted last year that there was an increasing number of children that were starting P1 that were still using nappies/pull ups.

Over the last year the Parenting & Family Learning Team have developed a few different support options for families, this has included training for staff, a SWAY that can be given or used with parents and a [podcast](#) . All of the information is consistent with the NHS Bladder and Bowel Service key messages.

The Early Years Family Learning Practitioners can also support families either as a group or individually with this.

In partnership with Families Empowering Communities, we have sourced funding to provide some key resources for families that are receiving support, if for financial reasons they cannot afford to purchase items to support their child's potty-training journey. These resources should be used in conjunction with support for the family to make sure the items are being used effectively, this funding has been given to try to help reduce the number of children starting P1 that are still in nappies/pull ups, although support can be offered to the family at any time (you do not need to wait until they are in their preschool year.

Items include:

Potty

Toilet step

Toilet training seat

Pants

Waterproof single mattress cover

Laundry detergent

The application form must be completed by a professional supporting the family, consent from the parent **MUST** be given prior to the application being submitted.

[Potty Training/Toilet Coaching
Application Form](#)

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Fear-Less Triple P



Fear-Less Triple P

Is this your family?

Your child (aged 6 to 14 years) has anxiety that is affecting their everyday life. It may stop them, or your whole family, from doing certain activities. Your child may be worried a lot of the time. You may swing between reassuring them and telling them to face their fears. Neither of these seems to work, and their anxiety seems to increase. You may feel like you've tried everything and possibly may be anxious yourself. If parenting a child with anxiety is affecting your life and you'd like to help your child worry less and be more confident, Fear Less Triple P can help.

What is Fear-Less Triple P?

Fear Less Triple P helps you set a good example of coping with anxiety, coach children to become more emotionally resilient, and develop your own toolbox of strategies. You can choose how to best support your child as they learn to manage their anxiety more effectively.

Fear Less Triple P encourages you to use practical strategies with all family members, not just the child who seems especially anxious. In this way, the Fear Less Triple P program helps the whole family to reduce unnecessary fear and anxiety.

What can I expect from this program?

This comprehensive program is delivered over 7 weeks, each session lasts two hours. Over seven sessions you will cover a range of strategies and exercises that will help you put your plans into action.

For more information, please email Parenting@pkc.gov.uk



Teen Triple P & Fear-Less Groups

From July to December 2025, we're offering Teen Triple P and Fear-Less Triple P parenting groups across Perth and Kinross.

Teen Triple P helps parents of teenagers (11 years old – 16 years old) navigate the ups and downs of adolescence with practical strategies to build positive relationships, manage challenging behaviour, and support teens' emotional wellbeing.

Fear-Less Triple P is designed for parents of children 6 –14 years old experiencing anxiety. It offers evidence-based techniques to help reduce anxiety and build resilience in your child, while strengthening your confidence as a parent.

For more information on the programme please see our website [Parenting and family learning - Perth & Kinross Council](#) or contact the

team directly parenting@pkc.gov.uk. Any applications can be made by a professional or directly from the family.



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Incredible Years

Just a wee reminder that the closing date for The August Incredible Years Groups will be the 13th June. As always, we will have a mix of Perth and rural groups. Rural groups on offer will include Methven, Newhill, Kinross & Longforgan, Comrie & Crieff. The available groups will include:

- Incredible Years Babies Programme
- Incredible Years Toddlers 1-2
- Basic Incredible Years 3-6
- School Age Incredible Years 7-12
- Autism specific Incredible years 2-6

For more information on the programme please see our website [Parenting and family learning - Perth & Kinross Council](#) or contact the team directly parenting@pkc.gov.uk. Any applications can be made by a professional or directly from the family.



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Speakeasy Bitesize Sessions – Perth Grammar School

Supporting Parents & Carers 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Running monthly from August to November, each session explores a different, relevant theme in a relaxed and supportive environment:

28th August – Understanding the Adolescent Brain

25th September – The Online World

30th October – Culture

These evening sessions are open to all parents and carers in the community – come to one or all four!

For more information on the programme please see our website [Parenting and family learning - Perth & Kinross Council](#) or contact the team directly parenting@pkc.gov.uk. Any applications can be made by a professional or directly from the family.



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is Cheann Rois



Perth and Kinross Council

2 High Street, PH1 5PH, Perth