

A black and white photograph of three young children, likely of East Asian descent, wearing winter hats and jackets. The child on the right is smiling and looking towards the camera, while the other two are looking slightly away. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Welly boots and Baltic bairns: a collaborative approach to outdoor learning in the early years

Children in Scotland Annual
Conference
7 November 2019

Mairi Ferris
Performance Advisor

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

Thrive Outdoors

Playing and learning outdoors is fundamental for all our children to achieve their full potential, boosting health, wellbeing and development, and is a universal right.

We are working to embed outdoor play and learning into the fabric of Scottish life so that all of Scotland's children can thrive.



Creating the conditions through collaboration

Our partnership with Glasgow City Council

- Outcomes for children
- Staff confidence & competence
- Parental perception
- Community development
- Third Sector leadership
- Urban neighbourhoods with high SIMD
- ELC expansion as catalyst for change



Creating the conditions through collaboration

Outdoor Nursery Collaborations

- Castlemilk – Jeely Piece Club
8 ELC settings
- Drumchapel – 3D Drumchapel
2 ELC settings
- East End – Baltic Street Adventure Playground
6 ELC settings



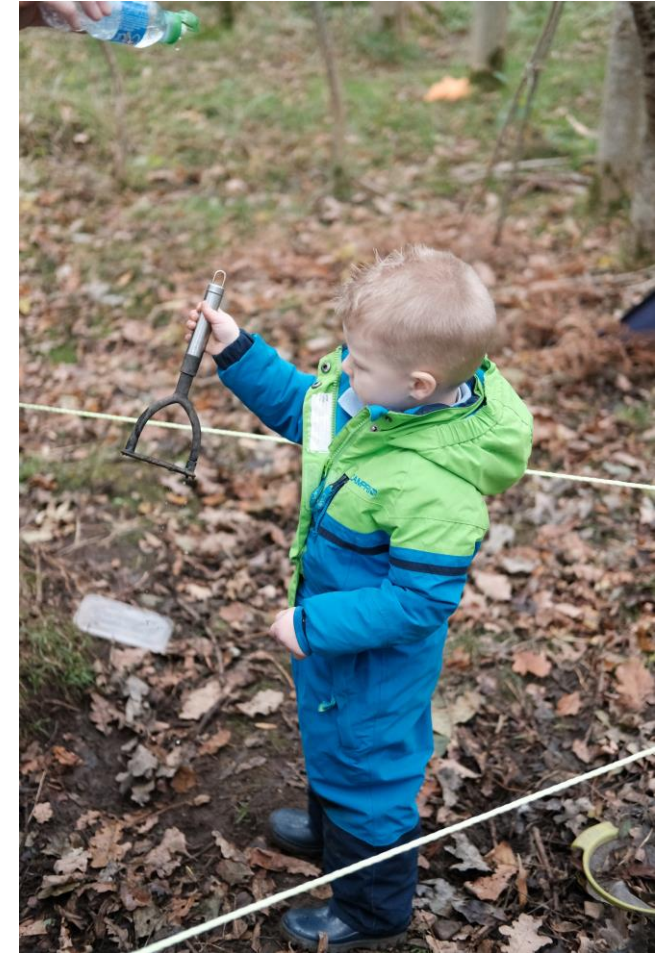
The neighbourhood approach



Impact

Outcomes ...for children

“For one child in particular, 'George', the woods have transformed him and his health. Initially, he was taken to and from nursery in a pram, using inhalers, was overweight and struggling to walk up hills. He no longer uses a pram. He often leads the other children in running up the paths to the woods and is very physically active within the woods, often climbing and running. He seeks out ways to be active in nursery and is one of the most regular attendees”



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Impact

Outcomes ...for staff

“Staff have become more confident in the outdoors and taking a lead role. Staff have also commented how they look forward to their day out in the woods as it is a much calmer environment and are also taking their own children out to the woods more to explore it. Staff feel confident in discussing and showing other staff in their establishments the outdoors and how this can benefit the children and themselves physically and mentally.”



Impact

Overall Nov 2017 – June 2019

- 3 Lead Charities
- 16 nurseries
- 1596 children participated
- 5904 attendances



Impact

In Castlemilk 2018/19

- 278 individual children participated
- 1590 attendances

The legacy in Castlemilk

- 8 nurseries still going out!
- 1 full outdoor nursery in operation
- 1 indoor/outdoor variation in development
- 1 satellite service in development



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Nurturing Nature

November 2019



Learning
through
Landscapes

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Learning through Landscapes

Our Background

- *Advocates for outdoor learning and play at school and in the early years.*
- *Inspire and enable the design and development of outdoor environments to support children's development*
- *Inspire and enable teachers and early years practitioners to develop confidence, ideas and skills to lead learning and change in their setting.*



Learning through Landscapes

How do we do this?



- *Training*
- *Site Visits*
- *Nurturing Nature*
- *Living through Landscapes*
- *Local School Nature Grant*
- *Erasmus+*
- *Learning in Local Greenspace*
- *Greenspace: Headspace*
- *International Schools*



Learning
through
Landscapes

Nurturing Nature

Building dens... Building relationships...



Aims:

- *Increasing the wellbeing and bond of parent and child*
- *Developing relationships between practitioners and families*
- *Increasing confidence and skills of Early Years Practitioners*
- *Capacity building project*



Learning
through
Landscapes

Nurturing Nature

Building dens... Building relationships...



- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Dundee
- Inverclyde
- Falkirk
- Argyll and Bute
- West Lothian
- North Lanarkshire
- South Lanarkshire
- Renfrewshire
- East Ayrshire

Nurturing Nature

Building dens... Building relationships...



- *Funded by CYPFEIF & ALEC*
- *10 Week project*
 - *Meeting the parents*
 - *8 weeks of play*
 - *Stay and Play Day to finish*
- *Targeting SIMD areas*
- *Targeting less engaged families, particularly dads*
- *Facilitated by LtL - led by the children*

Nurturing Nature

Building dens... Building relationships...



- *Working with children age 2 – 5*
- *Supporting the following areas:*
 - *Social*
 - *Physical*
 - *Emotional*
 - *Cognitive*
 - *Language*
- *Providing low cost alternatives to play for families*

Nurturing Nature

Building dens... Building relationships...



Learning
through
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Nurturing Nature

Building dens... Building relationships...



- *A time to build relationships*
- *A time for good fun*
- *A time to stop and play*



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