

# The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments



## Early Years Education

The Department of Early Years Education offers an integrated educational and therapeutic programme for school and pre-school children.

In terms of the child's **physical abilities**, the aim is for the child is to develop:

- an upright posture,
- independent sitting and standing balance,
- increase mobility,
- develop hand function with the gross and fine motor skills.

From a **functional perspective** the aim is to establish the life skills essential for achieving maximum independence, such as eating, drinking, dressing, undressing, toileting and personal hygiene.

Integrated with the physical and functional development, the child's **cognitive development** is addressed through the Centre's curriculum which is heavily informed by the *Curriculum for Excellence* First Level and Early Level Curricula.

### Nursery Class

The Centre's nursery provision has the aim of developing each child's physical, functional and cognitive abilities and preparing them to progress to school, whether that is the Centre's Primary Class, or that of their local school. The development of each child's abilities is achieved by means of active participation in a programme which incorporates and balances educational and therapeutic elements.

The child's cognitive abilities are developed through engagement with the Centre's Curriculum which at this level is heavily informed by the *Curriculum for Excellence* First Level Curriculum. Key elements of the nursery programme are:

- engagement with active learning in all curricular areas
- incorporation of learning through play
- development of skills for daily living
- encouragement of each child to set his/her individual challenges
- enablement of each child to make decisions relating to what and how they wish to learn
- provision of opportunities for each child to be appropriately challenged

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## **Primary School Class**

Pupils attend the composite Primary Class with the aim of developing their cognitive, physical and functional abilities and preparing them for mainstream schools when they progress from the Centre. The balanced and integrated educational and physical programme:

- promotes active learning in all curricular areas
- incorporates play opportunities
- encourages children to set their own challenges
- enables children to make decisions about what and how they wish to learn
- develops skills for daily living
- promotes the development of independence and life skills, and
- develops age-appropriate behaviour

Although pupils are educated through engaging with the Centre's curriculum, this has a considerable degree of individual differentiation to ensure each child has a programme which is focused on their individual abilities and needs. For all children, all programmes are highly participative, active, and employ exploration.

An increasing number of children attending the Primary Class share their time between the Centre and their local mainstream school, thus gaining from the Centre's specialist provision but also enabling them to be educated with their peers. Regular review meetings are held to monitor the progress of individual children, with both Centre and local school staff undertaking reciprocal visits and preparing a transition plan for the final transfer from the Centre to the local school.

For further information about any of the above services, please contact:

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