

Robert Smillie Memorial Nursery Class & Skylark ELC

Together we learned, we grew 2022-2023



2022-2023 has been such an exciting year for the Robert Smillie Community.

In December 2022 Skylark ELC joined our family & together we are on a continuous journey of loving our children, serving our community, enjoying our learning and developing leadership.

The purpose of this document is to showcase some of our achievements over the past year.

If joy, love, care & happiness could be captured on paper we would have needed to print a forest.



Opening of Skylark

In December 2022 we opened our provision for our two year olds followed in the new year with the opening of our three to five provision. We were so proud to open such a beautiful building to serve our families in Strutherhill. A full new team was recruited, welcomed and integrated with our existing nursery class team.

It is no mean feat to run as one team in two separate buildings but we are determined that this will never be a barrier and we are proud of how we work together every day, ensuring we deliver the highest quality care and learning experiences for the children and families of our community.

Please scan the QR code below to see Skylark feature in South Lanarkshire's ELC Sway bulletin. Videos & Photos captured by Danielle Campbell our EY Practitioner.



SCAN ME



Leadership

At RSMP Nursery Class & Skylark ELC we value leadership at all levels. Both nurseries are managed by Head Teacher & Depute Head Teacher of the wider Robert Smillie Establishment and led each day by a Nursery Team Leader in the nursery class & a Depute Head of Centre at Skylark.

Both Louise F (Team Leader in nursery class) and Louise W (DHOC at Skylark) were newly appointed to management roles in 2023.

Louise F had worked as an early years practitioner within our nursery class, spent a short time as Acting Team Leader before securing the permanent team leader post. Full of energy, relentless enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of fun and care it is a joy to have her lead.

Louise W worked centrally with the equity and excellence team and spent time during 2022 in that role within our nursery class. She successfully interviewed for the permanent DHOC post when Skylark opened. With unwavering professionalism and the highest expectations Louise guides the team at Skylark as they secure the best outcomes for children and families.

We are proud to grow leaders at RSMP. Both Louise's are examples of how we do this.

Every single member of our nursery class has a leadership role. The roles are in the form of 'Improvement Champions'. Improvement Champion roles are linked to the improvement plan and each team member takes responsibility for leading in their area. The roles are mirrored across both establishments.

Please ask our team about their improvement champions role, they would be delighted to share their journey so far with you.



Library

We love being part of the Larkhall community and together we achieve more. We are well known in our local library as we visit every week. Danielle & Aimee our Communication Improvement Champions led this partnership consistently throughout the year, whether it was a rainy puddle walk or a walk in the glorious sunshine the children engaged in high quality literacy experiences in their local library week after week.



The nursery class team completed Makaton training. Both Skylark & RSMP Nursery class use makaton every day as a universal approach to enhance communication. We are so proud of gaining this qualification.



Knitting

During our weekly library visits the children showed interest in the local knitting group who were there at the same time every week. It wasn't long before we made friends with Dorothy (who is 99 years old) and her group and learned a new skill. A wonderful example of following the children's interests, intergenerational learning and never missing an opportunity! One of our children loved knitting so much that her Papa bought her a knitting kit for her birthday.



Larkhall Baptist Church

We have a strong link with our local church - Larkhall Baptist Church. Craig and Ali have visited us and we have visited them. Craig & Ali have strong links with the school and wider Strutherhill community. We are proud that they know us and we know them.



Out & About in the Community

We love getting out and about in the community and learn lots on the way. We are lucky to have so many shops and businesses who welcome us whenever we visit. This is our community and we love being a part of it.



Our Vision
Together we learn, we grow



Woodland Adventures

Our weekly woodland adventure sessions are led by Alex (Nursery Class) and April (Skylark) who are our Outdoor Champions. The children enjoy adventures in the Morgan Glen Woodland & also in our wild gardens within the school & nursery grounds. Parents/Carers are invited to join in on the last session of each block. We are so proud to offer our woodland experience to our children across both nurseries every single week regardless of whether the sun is shining or rain is pouring.

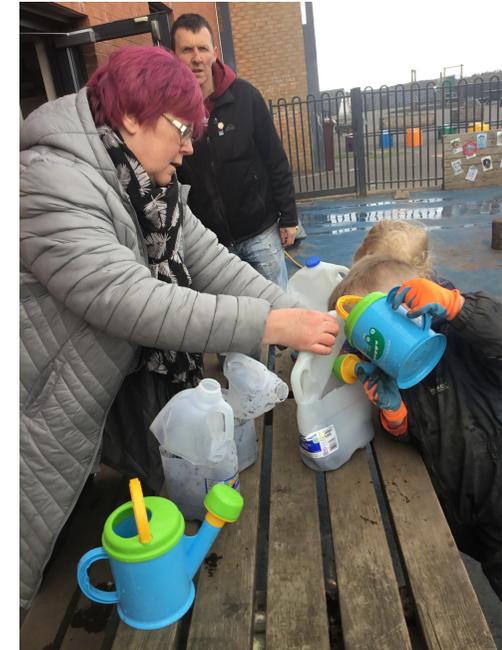




Community Growers

We are proud of our partnership with Larkhall Community Growers. Ashleigh (Nursery Class) & Hannah (Skylark) have supported a thriving partnership which has allowed our children to visit the Community Garden and for the Community Growers Team to visit our nursery for rich learning experiences.

We even won their local competition with our amazing plant box!



Active Sessions

Both nurseries take part in Sports Coaching Sessions weekly. David is our South Lanarkshire Active Schools Sports Coach we are proud that our children get this experience every week from a professional sports coach.



We have evaluated our practice against 'My Active World' document and are committed to ensuring good physical wellbeing of our children and their families. Please ask Louise (Miss Finnie) to read our evaluation of our practice against 'My Active World'.

We invited our grown ups along to join in a session too & are delighted that David is going to continue to coach us after the summer.



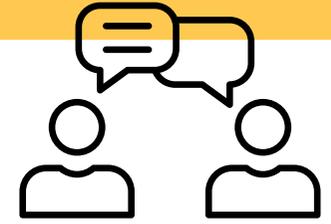
Parent/Carer Engagement

We recognise the importance and value strong relationships with parents/carers. We were delighted to offer many opportunities across the year to our parents/carers. Each event was well attended with wonderful feedback.

- Stay & Play Sessions (multiple throughout year)
- Big chef, Little chef (cooking fun with our grown ups)
- "Bring a man that matters" for Fathers Day & "Bring a lady you love" for Mothers Day
- Family Day Out to Clyde Valley Farm Park (a highlight of our year)
- Skylark 2-3 Room Fun Day
- Nursery Natter (Monthly)
- Dad's/Grandad's Football Fun Session
- Sports Day
- Christmas Singalong
- Siblings @ Skylark



Parent/Carer Engagement



Evaluations

The thoughts and opinions of our parents/carers matter to us and they help guide areas for improvement. We asked our parents throughout the year to fill in evaluations, sharing these with the staff team and responded individually to any that required follow up.

Newsletter

Every month we issue a newsletter to our families to share information. Our newsletter is published on paper and on the Learning Journals App.

Learning Journals

All our parents/carers are linked on the Learning Journals app where they can engage with their child's learning in nursery.



Skylark Free Market

We are so proud to offer all our RSMP families the opportunity to use Skylark Free Market. Food & toiletries are readily available at no cost and with no judgement. We worked hard to secure a grant to allow us to launch Skylark Free Market earlier this year and are already planning on how we can ensure this important resource can continue to support families long term.



Working with other professionals

We are so grateful to all the wonderful professionals from across agencies that we have worked with over 2022-2023.



Elaine Burns our Early Years Specialist Support Teacher.



Madeline Hilman our Link Educational Psychologist

Jordan Black from the Visual Impairment Team



Monica our Barnardos Family Support worker



Our NHS colleagues from the Health Visiting Team

Our NHS colleagues from Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language

Our NHS colleagues from Child Smile



Our colleagues from the Lanarkshire social work & family support team

Our colleagues across the colleges & universities who have supported our students



End of Year Celebration

Being Me @ RSMP & Skylark ELC

2022-2023 session ended with a wonderful celebration "Being Me at RSMP & Skylark ELC". The celebration focused on our children and their wonderful talents, our show was completely child led and the most wonderful display of uniqueness and "Being Me" you could imagine.

We had children playing the keyboard, children starring in their own music video, acrobatics, dancing, press ups, singing, weight lifting, art work and much more. Our parents & carers laughed, cheered and cried as we said goodbye to our wonderful pre schoolers and their families.



QR Code

Please scan the QR code below and take the time to watch the video which has captured the joy, fun, learning and memories being made at our establishment by our Class of 2023. In particular, the photos towards the end of the video show the relationships, fun and love our children experienced in their time with us.



& Finally a word from management...

I am so incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together over the past year at RSMP Nursery & Skylark ELC. Most of all I am proud of the wonderful team, a group of individuals who each bring their own unique character to our establishment and continually go above and beyond. Full of heart, fun, care and determination to deliver the very best service possible for our children and families - they have made it happen.

It hasn't been without bumps in the road but we have used these as learning opportunities. We are resilient, reflective and great problem solvers - we never forget that positivity is one of our values.

Our children are cared for, listened to, learn and are loved- as are our families and our staff team. This year our pre-schoolers and their families have left us with the most special and happy memories of their time at nursery. A job well done.

Our relentless drive to continue to improve fills me with pride and excitement. Knowing that we must continue to improve, not because we are not good enough but because we can be even better will lead us to continually delivering the best outcomes for our children and families and continually raising our expectations of ourselves and the service we deliver.

What a joy it is to be part of it all. We will continue on our journey.
The best is yet to come.

