

Stay and Play Policy

Coldstream ELC

Date: September 2024

Review Dates: January 2026

Our policy aligns with **national guidance for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in Scotland**, Care Inspectorate standards, and SBC guidance. It is designed to **encourage parental engagement** and strengthen partnerships between families and the ELC setting.

Aims

To **encourage and involve parents/carers** in their child's learning and development, supporting strong home-school partnerships:

“To develop and maintain strong partnership approaches to improve outcomes for young children. These partnerships will also contribute to the continued improvement of the setting and community. Strong partnerships are a powerful feature of a highly effective setting.”

— *How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare (HGIOELC), QI 2.7 Partnerships*

We recognise that **parents and carers are the primary influence** on their child's social, emotional, and physical development, and know their child better than anyone. Stay and Play sessions are designed to be **inclusive, welcoming, and supportive** for all families.

Objectives

Stay and Play sessions provide **informal opportunities** to:

- Model **learning through play** and planned experiences.
 - Share **learning, progress, and achievements** with families.
 - Involve families by **sharing their skills, interests, and cultural experiences**.
 - Build **positive relationships** between families, staff, and children.
 - Gather **parental feedback** to support continuous improvement in the setting.
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Organisation of Sessions

- Sessions are held **at the end of each term**, allowing **new starters and part-time children** time to settle.
- Families are **consulted wherever possible** to determine suitable session times.
- Each session runs for approximately **one hour**.
- To ensure a **high-quality experience**, sessions are limited to **four families per week**.

- Some sessions may have a **theme**, e.g., nature walk, making playdough, or baking. Details are shared via **Showbie**, and families can sign up with the staff member on the door.
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Supporting Families

- Coldstream ELC values **positive relationships** with all families.
 - The setting will **make reasonable adjustments** to accommodate individual family needs.
 - Staff encourage families to **participate actively**, supporting children's learning and fostering engagement.
 - Families are invited to **share their observations, suggestions, and feedback**, contributing to the development and improvement of the ELC setting.
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Staff Responsibilities

- Ensure sessions are **welcoming, safe, and inclusive**.
 - Model **effective play and learning interactions** for families.
 - Provide opportunities for **parents/carers to engage with their child** meaningfully.
 - Observe and **note learning experiences** during Stay and Play sessions to inform future planning.
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Links to National Guidance

- **Curriculum for Excellence – Early Level**: Play-based learning and parental engagement
 - **HGIOELC (How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare?)** – QI 2.7 Partnerships
 - **Realising the Ambition**, Scottish Government 2020
 - **Care Inspectorate – Parent and Carer Engagement Guidance**
 - **National Health and Social Care Standards**, My Support, My Life
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Key Principles

- Stay and Play promotes **active parental engagement** in children's learning.
- Sessions are **inclusive, welcoming, and reflective of children's interests and needs**.
- Family involvement is **valued, encouraged, and used to support setting improvement**.

- Sessions are **carefully organised** to ensure **safety, quality, and meaningful interaction**.

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