

Additional Information about ASN Early Years Provision

In recent years a series of changes have taken place nationally, specifically in the area of early years education where the entitlement for children has been increased from 600 hours to 1140 hours. The funding associated with this expansion has made possible an evolution in the early years environments across the estate making them more natural, nurturing and communication friendly. There are indoor quiet areas and areas for parents to be supported as well as amazing outdoor facilities.

There has also been a significant expansion in the workforce. This workforce has been provided with professional learning which includes input on autism and communication needs and approaches.

These highly trained professional early years practitioners are supported by a team of quality improvement officers, an early years' inclusion team, excellence and equity lead professionals, nurture workers, dedicated teachers, and an educational psychologist.

As a result, the service now provides more specialist, specific and targeted additional support to the children in North Ayrshire's accessible, stimulating and nurturing early years settings. This team also facilitates the transition to the primary stage and provide support and advice to parents and carers. A planning tool has been developed for use with children with severe and complex physical, developmental or communication additional support needs. The planning for children with specific additional support needs ensures appropriate targets are set and appropriate experiences are provided. The early intervention made in a small group settings with key workers who know the families and who are easily accessible to them is important in ensuring the best possible start in life.