



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon MSP Angus North and Mearns



mairi.gougeon.msp@
parliament.scot



@mairigougeonmsp



0131 348 6947
01356 626942



@mairigougeon

Sharon Imray

Poppies Pre-School LTD

The Old Surgery

Laurencekirk

AB30 1DX

Dear Sharon,

I would like to write to you to congratulate you enormously on your recent 'excellent' rating from the Care Inspectorate.

The fact that this is the third successive inspection to achieve an 'excellent' rating since 2012, is testament to your dynamic approach to outdoor learning for young people, your highly-skilled workforce and the incredible learning environment you have created.

I saw this first hand when I visited towards the end of last year. I genuinely loved that visit and came away from it feeling inspired by the work you are doing. The children were happy, engaged and imaginative individuals who are clearly flourishing at Poppies Pre-School.

It's no surprise that the work you are doing is being recognised by many other educators and I wish you every success in the future as you continue to develop the Pre-School.

The children are clearly becoming responsible citizens at a young age with their successful local campaigning to get a dog poo bin and in encouraging local businesses to use fewer plastic straws.

In recognition of this, I have submitted a motion at the Scottish Parliament (text below) and would be delighted to visit you again in the future. I am also available if there is anything I can do to help and support the work you are doing then please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

Motion Number: S5M-11693 **Lodged By:** Mairi Gougeon **Date Lodged:** 17/04/2018

Motion Text:

That the Parliament congratulates Poppies Pre-School in Laurencekirk on its third successive "excellent" rating from the Care Inspectorate since 2012; notes that Poppies was established in 2007 and has invested in a highly-skilled degree-led team, with more than half of the staff qualified to SVQ4 level or above; commends the nursery for the strong emphasis that it places on active outdoor learning, with a stated aim of encouraging curiosity, challenge, investigation and creativity; recognises that this approach to education draws on influences from the German educationalist, Friedrich Froebel, inventor of the kindergarten in the 1800s; understands that studies by the Edinburgh Froebel Network and

Reggio Emilia in Italy and Iceland show the benefits of continuous professional development and its impact on children's learning; believes that the Care Inspectorate's rating is further evidenced by the many extensive testimonials that Poppies has received from parents and children regarding the use of the outdoors, connections in the local community and engagement with families, and considers that mud kitchens, sticks, puddles, tyres, guttering and a sturdy climbing tree enhance the health and wellbeing of the children as they go on to become successful learners and effective contributors in their school life.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mairi Gougeon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mairi Gougeon MSP

Angus North & Mearns Constituency