



We were absolutely delighted to welcome all our new and returning learners at the start of the new term in August. Our students starting their second year of the Foundation Apprenticeship spent the first 3 weeks of the new term with us at CALA's newly opened at Beechwood ELC to carry out a specific work-based task (see 2nd Year Update) before progressing on to their work placements in CALA managed settings including Junior World, Croileagan Inbhir Narainn Beechwood ELC, Cradlehall ELC and Wimberley Childcare Centre and Dingwall Ducklings.

The feedback received from managers and practitioners is that all our learners are settling in really well, are making a valuable contribution with one manager commenting that the only problem they had was getting their learner to leave at the end of the day!

Our new learners from Charleston Academy, Culloden Academy, Grantown Grammar School, Millburn Academy and Nairn Academy have settled in very well and have impressed us with their enthusiasm and commitment to their FA in Social Services Children and Young People. Along with tutorials, research and reading focused on the development of children and young people and they have been putting their learning into practice through carrying out work-based practical tasks (see 1st year Update) to support development of stimulating, nurturing spaces for babies and young children at Beechwood ELC.

COVID update

To ensure everyone's wellbeing and safety, we continue to monitor and implement Scottish Government Covid advice and guidance, remaining responsive and solution focused to keep disruption to the learner's experience to a minimum. Inevitably there have been occasions where we've had to make last minute changes to delivery plans eg. moving to online, as always, our students are flexible and responsive to circumstances – key ELC and life skills! Equally noted is our young people's respectful following of guidelines and CALA's COVID protocols– wearing masks, hand washing, distancing and Lateral Flow Testing – thank you 😊

CALA Foundation Apprenticeship Upcoming Events

Due to COVID lockdowns and ongoing restrictions, most of our intended planned events to share the learning and work of our Apprentices with parents, partners and schools have been postponed. With restrictions easing, we are tentatively making plans for events later in the year (Covid dependent) Proposed dates to follow. Meanwhile, we are happy to meet on a one-to-one basis with parents, partners, school staff or any young people who are interested in completing a FA with us starting in Aug 22.

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2nd Year Update



Our 7 2nd Year students put their learning and research on how children learn into practice when they were tasked with setting up a stimulating play and learning environment for the 3 – 5's room in our new Beechwood ELC.

The learners gathered natural resources to provide interesting and engaging displays, sourced, painted and upcycled furniture and consulted with children and setting practitioner to ensure everyone's ideas were reflected.

Teamwork, strong awareness of national guidance and how to use it to inform practice, problem solving, resourcefulness, shared leadership and not to forget new skills learned such as painting and carpentry are just some of the skills demonstrated by the students in this task. Amazingly completed this in just two days!

Our year 2 students are now in their respective placements where they will remain for the most part of the year. Visits to other settings are planned to help broaden experience of variety of childcare settings which are all unique in their own way.



1st Year Update

Our 5 new learners attend our new Learning Hub at Beechwood ELC each Friday and working within COVID guidelines have wasted no time in getting hands on with tasks to support the practitioners develop and provide high quality early learning and childcare. For example, they have listened to ideas shared by practitioners and developed the entrance area to the setting, including a lending library for parents to borrow children's story books and have planned, risk assessed and set up some physical play experiences for the both the 0-2 years and 2-5 years children and their practitioners to explore.

