



## PEN PICTURE: Jeely Piece Club

Over the past twenty-five years knowledge and understanding of child development has been enriched by research into attachment between a child and primary carer. Current policy and guidance, for example Pre-Birth to Three, Curriculum for Excellence, Building the Ambition and the National Child Protection Guidance, reflect and promote the significance of emotional attachments and the impact from environmental influences.

Scotland's Practice model GIRFEC encapsulates this ethos by keeping the child at the centre of services. The Jeely Piece Club Nursery applies these principles on a daily basis. This nursery has been operating in the community of Castlemilk, Glasgow for 40 years. The organisation was founded by local parents, and continues to support families and any individual who has an important role in making childhood memorable, happy and successful.

### Case study

Jim and Joan are teenage partners with additional support for learning needs. The couple met at school, and over time were looking forward to the birth of their first baby. Social work completed a pre-birth assessment, housing support identified accommodation, and the family was referred to the Jeely Piece Nursery.

GIRFEC provides principles of practice which are used to gather and collate information for each family in order to ensure a personalised response from integrated services. Jim and Joan were encouraged to consider their needs by focusing upon current issues, protective factors, and identifying potential difficulties in the post-birth period. The couple immediately joined the Jeely teen-parents' programme, and participated in a First Aid course, 'Cooking on a budget', and were introduced to Glasgow Life leisure facilities with their peer group.

The first few weeks and months of caring for their baby daughter were busy and stressful for the couple. A baby in the family meant that the couple had to learn new skills, and gain understanding of their responsibilities, capabilities, support mechanisms, and the means to access guidance. The baby girl attended the Jeely nursery on a part-time basis from an early age. Jim and Joan stayed in the nursery for several sessions a week, and the key worker showed the couple how to interact positively with their daughter. The Jeely sensory room provided a relaxed atmosphere in which Joan could feed the baby, develop a secure attachment relationship, and discuss any anxieties with experienced staff. A Jeely home-play worker facilitated play in the home environment and created an effective link with nursery. The Positive Start team liaised with the Jeely, sharing information, discussing concerns, and identifying the best approach to supporting this couple and extended family to care effectively for the little girl.

Jim and Joan were visited by a housing worker who ensured that their accommodation met the needs of the family. The Jeely senior worker attended regular social work core group meetings with the family, and latterly supported Jim to take his daughter to an orthoptist appointment. This family is achieving potential.

The Jeely nursery children are kept at the centre of our integrated service, and we create partnerships with families which promote inclusion, and support every child to achieve.