15 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In May 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Meadows Nursery. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the owner, manager and practitioners.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- There are positive, caring relationships between practitioners, children and families. Children are happy and settled at nursery and enjoy their experiences.

- Practitioners are kind and gentle in their interactions. They show care and concern for children and offer support to help them settle each day.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- Improve leadership to support key improvements in children's experiences. This would include developing the skills of the practitioner team through ongoing support, training and development. The manager needs to be visible in playrooms and take a more active role in leading and managing improvements.

- Strengthen the impact of quality assurance and self-evaluation to increase the nursery's awareness of its strengths and aspects for improvement. This will provide a basis for key advances in children's experiences, including vital improvements in the quality of learning and teaching.

- Provide more stimulating and challenging spaces and experiences to ensure that children are more engaged, motivated and progressing more securely. Practitioners should improve their interactions with children to include more open-ended questions and explanations.

- Improve approaches to planning and assessment. The manager and practitioners need to gather more reliable evidence about children's progress. They should use this information to ensure that planned learning provides appropriate support and challenge for all children. This will help children to make the best possible progress.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some of the setting's work using four quality indicators from How good is our early learning and childcare?. Quality indicators help early learning and childcare settings, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each setting, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish early learning and childcare settings are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Meadows Nursery

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	**weak**
Learning, teaching and assessment	**weak**
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	**satisfactory**
Securing children's progress	**weak**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: Meadows Nursery | Inspection Report | Education Scotland

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the setting needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with The City of Edinburgh Council regarding the setting's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the setting within six months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The City of Edinburgh Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the setting, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the setting has made.

May Geddes
HM Inspector

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