10 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Pinocchio's Nursery - Penicuik. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and worked closely with the operational director and practitioners.

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

- Staff have created a calm and welcoming ethos for children and families. Their positive relationships and nurturing approaches are supporting children to settle well and engage in their play.
- The use of the local community, woodland and the regular access to outdoors supports children well to learn about their wider world.
- Senior leaders and staff have created an inclusive culture for staff, children and parents. They value diversity and the contribution this makes to children's learning.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the operational director and a representative from Midlothian Council.

- Senior leaders and staff, with support from the local authority, should review and improve further the current planning process. This should include making documentation more manageable. Staff should now work towards a more effective balance of planning for children's learning and responding to their interests.
- Senior leaders and staff, with support from the local authority, should improve further the process for checking children's progress. Staff need to ensure they use robust assessment information to demonstrate clearly the progress children make as a result of their nursery experiences.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some of the setting's work using two quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. 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 HMIE's evaluations for Pinocchio's Nursery - Penicuik

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**satisfactory**
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality	**good**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: Pinocchio's Nursery - Penicuik | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

What happens next?

We are confident that the setting has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Midlothian Council will inform parents/carers about the setting's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings.

Sandra Kehoe
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

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