25 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cosy Cottage Nursery School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the head of setting and staff.

The ELC setting was inspected as part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

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

- Children are happy, settled and highly engaged in their learning. They display imagination and creativity as they use a range of open-ended resources. When practitioners plan play spaces well, they support children to explore and investigate.
- Relationships between staff, children and parents are very positive. All staff are caring and support children very well. Children and families are valued, respected and treated with kindness.
- At times, staff plan aspects of learning skilfully around children's ideas and interests. They make effective use of visits into local area to enrich learning and encourage children to learn outdoors.

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

- Staff should strengthen children's experiences and enhance resources in literacy and numeracy both indoors and outdoors. They should ensure a stronger focus on learning in digital technologies.
- Leaders should state clearly the nursery curriculum rationale. In doing so, they should show how they are developing depth and challenge in children's learning.
- Leaders and staff should strengthen the nursery's approaches to tracking and monitoring children's progress in learning. They should improve the quality of observations, focusing more on significant learning and identifying children's next steps. This should support staff to build on what children already know and can do.
- The director should continue as planned to improve nursery security. This would include ensuring secure access to both nursery buildings, and all outdoor play spaces.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the ELC's work using three quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors. As this inspection is part of Education Scotland's pilot inspection phase using the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors, these quality indicators have not been graded.

Quality indicators for the nursery class
Curriculum
Learning, teaching and assessment
Wellbeing, inclusion and equality

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and review | Education Scotland

What happens next?

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

May Geddes
HM Inspector

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