

# Loirston School Nursery Day Care of Children

Loirston School  
Loirston Avenue  
Cove Bay  
Aberdeen  
AB12 3HE

Telephone: 01224 897 686

**Type of inspection:**  
Unannounced

**Completed on:**  
27 July 2022

**Service provided by:**  
Aberdeen City Council

**Service provider number:**  
SP2003000349

**Service no:**  
CS2003014441

## About the service

Loirston School Nursery is registered to provide care for up to 60 children aged three to those not yet attending primary school.

Loirston School Nursery is based in Cove Bay, Aberdeen, and is situated close to local amenities and bus routes. The service has a large open plan playroom with direct access to an outdoor area.

## About the inspection

This was an unannounced which took place on 19 July 2022 between 09:30 and 17:15. The inspection was carried out by one inspector from the Care Inspectorate. To prepare for the inspection we reviewed information about this service. This included previous inspection findings, information submitted by the service and intelligence gathered since the last inspection. In making our evaluations of the service we:

- spoke with children using the service
- received 19 responses to our online questionnaire
- spoke with staff and management
- observed practice
- reviewed documents

## Key messages

- Children experienced nurturing care and support
- Children had fun and were engaged in their play
- There were clear personal plans in place which reflected children's individual care and wellbeing needs
- Daily communication with parents should be improved
- Effective staff deployment within the service meant that children's individual needs were being met by the right number of staff
- The management team had a clear focus on improving outcomes for children and their families.

## From this inspection we evaluated this service as:

In evaluating quality, we use a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good

Further details on the particular areas inspected are provided at the end of this report.

## How good is our care, play and learning?

5 - Very Good

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this key question as very good.

### 1.1 Nurturing care and support

Children attending the service were happy, settled and having fun. They experienced warm, nurturing care to support their well-being. Staff were kind and respectful towards children, taking time to listen and respond. Staff knew children well and interacted positively with them to support their needs. This helped children feel secure.

Children's wellbeing was effectively supported through personal planning which was reviewed regularly with families and children. Staff knew children well and were aware of their individual needs. They spoke knowledgeably about the children, describing their individual characteristics and any sensitivities they may have had. We saw staff responding throughout the day, with kindness. This contributed positively to children's self-esteem and sense of wellbeing. As a result they were confident in approaching staff for help or reassurance. One parent told us "The staff are extremely friendly and approachable".

Children experienced an unhurried and sociable lunch time. Staff joined children at lunch time, promoting meaningful conversations. This contributed to the sociable experience for children and allowed an opportunity for emerging language skills to be developed. There were missed opportunities for choice and independence at lunch time. Management recognised this needed to be developed further and there were already plans in place to address this.

Effective links had been established with external agencies. This contributed to children's support and care being individual and right for them.

### 1.3 Play and learning

Children were observed to be happy and enjoying their time with friends. They had a wide variety of exciting opportunities which met their developmental needs, interests, and curiosities. These experiences offered children rich play and learning which included exploring, experimenting, being creative, and problem solving. As a result, children were engaged in their play throughout the session.

Children's ongoing learning and developmental progression was supported by sharing observations and next steps with parents via a digital platform. Evaluative comments and next steps were relevant to individual children, enabling parents to engage with learning at home if they wished. However, some parents told us they would like more effective communication and information about their child's daily experience, comments included, "would like to know a little more about the day at nursery, what they did today", and, "more use of the seesaw app for more regular communication". The management team were aware of this and agreed to take this forward as a priority.

**How good is our setting?****5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality key question as very good.

**2.2 Children experience high quality facilities**

Children were engaged in their play on the day of inspection. Play opportunities supported children's curiosity, enquiry, and creativity. Children freely accessed toys and resources to extend their play. This contributed to them developing a sense of ownership and respect for their environment.

Children had direct access from the playroom to the garden area and chose when to play outdoors allowing them to direct their own play. Children had many opportunities to explore and were able to use a range of open ended and natural materials to promote their physical development.

Health and well-being was promoted through outdoor play experiences. The garden provided a range of spaces for development of physical skills and exploration. Opportunities for children to explore on larger scale were provided with the use of large loose parts.

The play rooms offered a range of spaces for children to make choices support interests and develop ideas. Children benefited from a well resourced indoor play area. We saw children who explored happily and were engaged in their play. Children told us "I like to play superheroes", and, "I am building a big house".

There were some opportunities for children to access soft furnishings and cosy spaces to support children's wellbeing. These spaces help children relax, self-regulate, and feel safe. We discussed with the service enhancing these opportunities across the playroom. Management recognised this needed to be developed further and there were already plans in place to address this.

## How good is our leadership?

**5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality key question as very good.

### **3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well**

There was a strong ethos of improvement to support high quality outcomes for children and families. Staff, families, and children had recently been involved in creating a shared vision for the setting. This supported effective partnership working where all stakeholders views and contributions were valued and listened to.

Extensive and robust quality assurance processes allowed focussed and meaningful opportunities for the management team and staff to review and monitor various aspects of the service. This meant that areas for improvement were identified, shared with staff and actions were taken to make positive changes to children's experiences. This resulted in very good outcomes for children and their families.

The management team had a clear focus on improving outcomes for children and their families. Self-evaluation processes had allowed all staff to reflect on their practice and identify areas for improvement. The improvement plan had identified priorities for development with clear actions on how these would be achieved which reflected some of the findings of the inspection. This showed a capacity to identify improvements and make plans for development.

**How good is our staff team?****5 - Very Good**

We found significant strengths in aspects of the care provided and how these supported positive outcomes for children, therefore we evaluated this quality indicator as very good.

**4.3 Staff deployment**

Children benefitted from a caring and nurturing staff team who knew them well. They recognised that continuity of care was important for children. Effective use was made of staff experience, knowledge, and skills, to ensure children's experiences across their whole day was positive.

Effective staff deployment within the service meant that children's individual needs were being met by the right number of staff, consistently throughout the day. The staff to child ratio allowed staff to be responsive to individual needs which enhanced children's experiences and ensured children had the right support at the right time. Children who required additional support were well supported by staff to feel respected and included in daily experiences. This was enhanced through effective working relationships with families.

There was a positive and supportive ethos within the service. Both management and staff spoke of the positive relationship that had been formed within the team. The management team had a clear focus on staff well-being and ensured staff felt valued and listened too.

An induction programme for all staff was in place and this contributed to staff feeling secure and happy in their work. Staff told us about the mentoring system in place and how this had contributed to developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities. This resulted in a motivated and enthusiastic staff team, contributing to improved outcomes for children.

**Complaints**

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## Detailed evaluations

How good is our care, play and learning?	5 - Very Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	5 - Very Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	5 - Very Good
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	5 - Very Good
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good



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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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